

# Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

October 18, 1999

**FOOD FIGHT**  
The uproar over genetic crops

**BUSINESS**  
Sprint Canada's future

**HEALTH**  
A doctor shortage?

EXCLUSIVE

# TRADE SECRETS

**Haida artist Bill Reid** was a national icon. But much of his work was not his own.

The inside story of a tortured genius

By Jane O'Hara



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# Editor

## With a little bit of help from his friends

**What a spectacle!** Once upon last week, federalists and separatists were doing their rascally-booby-booby act. This time, it was in front of an international crowd of policy wonks discussing federalism in Quebec. At Ottawa, Edna Bruce Wallace reports, the serious overshadowed the serious work of the conference (page 38). And the rhetoric sounded for all the world like yet another daisy referendum campaign.

In fact, it might have been. Months ago when Ottawa was planning the conference, some of the larger minds must have speculated that Quebec could have been on the way of yet another independence referendum this fall. How better to confront separation than staging a love-in for federalism in Beaudouin's backyard?

Instead, last week's sessions provided the separationists with the unexpected gift of a global platform for their grievances. But it was not all bad news for the feds. The conference also demonstrated to the world that Canada's unity battle is one of bona fide, not bullies. And



Clinton, Clinton, Clark in Ottawa eloquence

Beauchamp never did quite explain how Quebec has grown into such a vibrant society in a system that he says has shackled Quebec.

What saved the week were two eloquent speeches by people outside Canadian politics—newly named Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson and

U.S. President Bill Clinton. Both spoke movingly about how civilised peoples can live together and work for a common purpose.

Clinton came closer to an outright endorsement of federalism over separation than any U.S. president. "You know, this federalism, it's not such a bad idea," he said in his folksy drawl. Clarkson borrowed from her own immigrant background, plus the insights of art, science, and ethics, and gave an extraordinary vision of a compassionate and inclusive nation. "We must not see ourselves in people who simply resist to trends," she said, "but as people who can inspire them." The eloquence of Clinton and Clarkson was refreshing, given the sterile nature of the current debate. If only we could keep our focus on the opportunities of the future, not the grievances of the past.

*Robert Lewis*

## Newsroom Notes

### Getting the story

**This week's** cover stories had their origin in a tip that Senior Writer Jane O'Hara received from a contact she made back in the mid-1980s when she was *Maclean's* Vancouver bureau chief. Her informant suggested she check out the provenance of a piece of jewelry ostensibly owned by the late, great Haida artist Bill Reid. The tip led O'Hara to

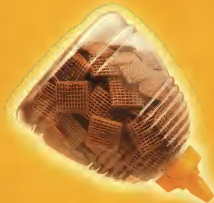
New York City, where the jewelry was about to go under the hammer at Christie's auction house (it did not sell), then to Vancouver for two extended periods of reporting. O'Hara inter-



O'Hara (left), Daniel, Rapoport: a tip

viewed more than 60 artists, art experts, dealers, agents, collectors, and friends and former employees of Reid. "What surprised me was how eager people were to talk about him," she says. "It's as though they'd been waiting for someone to come along and explode the myth of Bill Reid. He was a man who made some fabulous art, but built a lot of people in his climb to the top."

The issues, which begin on page 20, were edited by Assistant Managing Editor Peter Kaprielian and researched by Rosalyn/Rapport Shaula David.



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## The Grey Owl legacy

**You quote** from the *Ottawa Citizen*, after Grey Owl's death: "His writings as a writer and naturalist will survive" ("Rediscovering Grey Owl," *Citizen*, Oct. 4). Perhaps he will survive as a naturalist, but his writings have been unfortunately ignored by the Canadian literary establishment. A check of several anthologies of Canadian literature for excerpts from his



Grey Owl, his writings has been ignored

writings turns up nothing. A fixed writing about beaver is apparently an embarrassment to the custodians of CanLit. Literature is surely an appraisal of texts, not personalities. Grey Owl deserves better.

Bill Plummer, North Bay, Ont.

### Letters to the Editor

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**I am surprised** that in your cover story you failed to note another intriguing connection between Pierre Brossier, who plays Grey Owl in the film, and the role of an impostor. Brossier first came to the attention of most Canadians in the television series *Sawbones*, in which he played the role of a man with a dubious (though never fully explained) past who pretended to be the title character, a man who, like Grey Owl, never really existed.

William R. Reid, Kitchener, Ont.

"Truth and consequences" was aptly written. However, as a great-granddaughter of Archie Belaney, I noticed that a mistake was made. Archie Belaney's first daughter, whom you refer to as Alice, is named Agnes. Allison Palsad, Vancouver Beach, Ont.

## Free-market wages

**Ross Lever** is way off base ("Which greedy now?" Oct. 4). Greed and inflated salaries aside, you do not need to be an executive in this country to be disturbed by the new Canadian Auto Workers agreement with Ford. Excessive salaries and benefits are negotiated in a free market based on these individuals' education, skills, management acumen and their ability to attract capital and investment. And when they are discarded, they need to be rewarded and hired by other companies who are willing to pay competitive salaries for the rare skills they possess. On the other hand, who would hire an unemployed underworker and match their pay and benefits?

Lance Boyle, Ottawa

**Auto manufacturers** take in huge profits annually, thanks in very large part to the efforts of their labourers

## Refugee care

**I am an expatriate** Canadian working in an African country. Even though I faithfully pay Canadian income tax (both federal and provincial) each year, so I am required to do, I have to apply each year to receive a child tax benefit and I am not entitled to receive free medical care when I visit Canada. For medical care, I am charged out-of-country rates, which I then submit to a private insurance company. Thus, I was surprised to read in "Canadian open door" (*Citizen*, Aug. 23) that people who claim refugee status immediately are eligible for free medical care and social assistance. Perhaps on my next visit to Canada I should jump over the St. Lawrence River and claim refugee status. I would receive more benefit from any tax dollars.

J. Greg Smith, Toronto, Ont.

**CAW** members employed by the Big Three automakers in Canada simply want what they have named. After all, without us, their profits would be nil. Thanks to Ross Lever for offering perspective to those who didn't realize.

John F. Anderson, Windsor, Ont.

## Books online

**I wish** to comment on McClelland & Stewart publisher Arlie Brauer's plea that Canadians not buy from Amazon.com as they will receive American editions of Canadian novels ("Focus on books," *Opening Pages*, Sept. 27). I agree that we, as Canadians, should support Canadian authors and publishers, but in many cases the books Canadians want to buy are not available on Canadian bookstore sites, or through our local book retailers. The Internet can be a valuable resource, and when time is crucial the online site to find will be the most used. Maybe this is a wake-up call for all Canadian companies in all industries if you don't provide the goods and services that customers want, they will turn to wherever can meet their demands, regardless of where the company operates.

Gailly Symes, Burlington, Ont.



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## Census records

As one of a handful of genealogists and historians leading the campaign on the Internet to have the federal government release post-1901 census records to the public after a reasonable period, I must express my disappointment with your cover story ("I'll be search for roots," Sept. 20). While the article was interesting and informative, I was dismayed to see that an issue affecting millions of genealogists in Canada and around the world was brushed over with a single sentence. For readers who were so used to another census released in Canada, I would refer them to the Post-1901 Census Project Web site ([www.post1901censusproject.com](http://www.post1901censusproject.com)), where they will find an explanation of the problem.

Gordon A. Wells, Port Charlotte, B.C.

Your cover story has touched a chord with many family historians whose curiosity about personal ancestry has become a lifelong quest. However, one point should be clarified. The University

of Toronto may be the first to offer accredited classes in the subject of genealogy but the accreditation for the first accredited program for certification in Canada should go to the Genealogical Institute of the Maristines in Halifax.

Daniel F. Johnson, Certified Genealogist  
(Sarnia, Saint John, N.S.)

## A U.S. monopoly?

So, Joanne Nelner has decided to pursue a master's degree in the United States as a result of boring lectures at the University of Saskatchewan ("When learning is dull," The Mail, Oct. 4). I'm a little confused here. I've heard of students moving to the States for opportunity and higher wages, but now to read that our dear neighbours have a monopoly on interesting lectures as well? I'm currently studying for a

master's degree and am pleased to report that I haven't fallen asleep yet. And if I do, will I pick up the books and hand write? Give me a break.

Glen Bonnell, Ottawa

## Foth's island

I read my *Mail* on the back of a front, avoiding the possibility of not getting to Allan Rockingham's page. While reading his description of life "on my island in the Pacific" ("No story here, boss," Sept. 20), I had a feeling I had been there. It occurred to me that although he doesn't identify his island, it is the same one that is the setting for author Bill Richardson's *Barbed Wire Road to Boulder* trilogy. It is all there, the dirt on the dusty road, the bakery-deli, the churches, the prison and even a fence hole. I can see the good

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Dr. Forth hanging out with the eclectic B&B guests and carrying on ribald conversations with Mrs. Bachstein, the brothers' blonde-quashing parrot.

### Postnatal care

**Home vs room?** (J Health Monitor, Aug, 23) refers to a Toronto study that finds sending mothers and newborns home soon after birth can be harmful to babies' health. This study highlights the Ontario experience where, with early discharge, the readmission rate for babies increased to 11 per cent from 4.8 per cent. In Alberta's Capital Health region, which includes Edmonton, we have not had a similar experience. Our newborn readmission rate is consistently between two and three per cent, and our readmission rate for mothers is below 0.5 per cent. We believe our success has been due to our comprehensive community follow-up after discharge.

Shelley Weinstein, President  
Capital Health, Edmonton

### E-postal musings

**I find it ironic** that just days after reading "Canada Post delivers things really well" ("Going E-postal," *Business Post* 13), we had to ask why a pair of socks from North Burlington, Vt., to Calgary has not been received three weeks later. I am told that because I didn't pay an extra dollar for a "traceable delivery" there is nothing they can do. Had I been asked if I wanted a "traceable delivery," I would have been glad to pay the dollar, but I'm afraid next time I will use a courier, and not the one that is 96-per-cent owned by Canada Post. **GILLES COPEL**, North Burlington, Vt.

I have been a letter carrier with Canada Post for the past 24 years and read your story about e-postal with great interest. For Canada Post, it's the only

any to go, stop or die. The Canada Post board sees the writing on the wall. I wonder if the Canadian Union of Postal Workers has. If Canada Post's predictions are true about slow revenues of online services and the decline in personal mail, only fools would think Canada Post would keep as many workers. Of course, CU/PW will have a say, but what can it do if there is no hard mail to process? How can it justify all the manpower if Canada Post does not go after online services, the private sector will keep carving chunks out of the post office business. Unfortunately, some of my co-workers would rather not work for Canada Post and would rather work in the post truck that heads in the wind and leaves the bag bad. Tomorrow goes away. They are going to change very fast for Canada Post and I would rather be working for Canada Post than not working at all.

**John Humeau**, Port Colborne, Ont.

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**Publisher:** Paul Jones

It is a sense of uncertainty about the difficulties and challenges we live with every day as aboriginal people in Canada, I am honoured by the Sept. 27 cover and its assertion that "a new generation of free Canadian values is clear" ("Move over"). As chief of an Alberta First Nations and chairman of the federal National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, I can tell you that considerable efforts are being made across the country in building the capacity of young people. This is an investment that is clearly paying off, particularly in areas such as business development and in creating a new generation of aboriginal entrepreneurs. My board is uniquely positioned to provide information on a wide audience both inside and outside Canada. I am pleased you chose to see this position as carrying some "good news" about aboriginal achievement, along with stories that offer considerable hope for the future.

Chief Ray Williams,  
Tussock Creek First Nation, Alta.

**It's difficult** to reconcile the worlds of old and new at anytime, but with native North Americans it is especially hard. I work in ceremonies and am native myself, and it is extremely hard to deal with the disproportionate number of Americans in prison and stay positive. Our parents were proud in creating the climate for change and the breaking of cycles. Yes, they made some cultural mistakes, but given the ones they aimed with, it's surprising that they could even begin to overcome the inertia created by the governments of the day.

Harry French, Plummer, Mass.

**At what point** do Canadians who don't just look on Canada as full of assets to be sold to the neighbours start to have input into the discussion about the arkine side ("Rising the flag," Business, Oct. 4)? At what point in the sale of Canada does Canada stop being

**At what point** do Canadians who don't just look on Canada as full of assets to be sold to the neighbours start to have input into the discussion about the arkine side ("Rising the flag," Business, Oct. 4)? At what point in the sale of Canada does Canada stop being

Canada? When can we stop Canadians from selling Canada and blaming it on "NAFTA says we can't"? There are many people being sold the Toyota bongo, where American Airlines supplies 60 per cent of the money and only owns 15 per cent of the equity and Gerry Schwartz says that the airline will say Canadians and the muddy-sweat trick, where an American, Air Canada's CEO Robert Milton, plays the multinational card, while a Canadian, American Airlines' CEO Donald Garre, criticizes the non-unionized staff. Considering that the neighbours have been caught with their hands in the cookie jar, and desperately want a way out, maybe now we'll get some action from our government of capriciousness.

David Mossau, Toronto

The minister of transport has just presented, during this fall, "We will protect the public interest," and, second, "We were a Canadian solution." Canadians no longer want the government trying to protect their interests other than in a few strategic areas. Protection means some type of artificial interference, which in turn is a place to subsidize or simulate the effects of natural unrestricted competition in an industry. There are too many examples of the government not being equipped to adequately protect the public interest. The recent focus with the blood industry is a prime example. Winning a Canadian solution ultimately means spending millions of taxpayer dollars in order to support the idea that the urine industry is owned and operated by Canadian citizens. This is somehow left to be expounded insofar as the foreign Canadian is concerned. I don't think that is the case as all Canadians want to be transported by its safety—that is their paramount concern—and beyond that, they want the best price possible and reasonable availability of service.

Mark E. B. Whitbourne, *Kalamazoo, MI*

**Peter C. Newman** prefers to fly the coast, down-home airlines (the ones that are in the red) ("Gerry Schwartz has the right stuff," Sept. 13). The radio-





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## The Mail

award-winning *Air Canada* is "impersonal." Yes, he does sing the praises of Garry Schwartz. Unknowns are definitely not impersonal and are headed by people who are definitely not only, but obviously, according to Newman, Schwartz is different. Out of the goodness of his heart, he will save Canadian Airlines. He will relieve the burden from Ottawa. Thanks, Garry, in three anything we can do to repay you? Here, take *Air Canada*. When a fluffer pillow while you're in bed with the kids? How about a beautifully framed picture of all those families who will be left jobless in this deal?

**Heather Goodfellow, Green Valley, Ont.**

## Jewish superiority

In writing wistfully about anti-Semitism, Barbara Amiel has Thomas Cahill on her side ("Jews and Sunshine," Sept. 27). The subtitle of his book *The Gifts of the Jews* is *How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels*. Well said. The Jews are superior for three reasons, mainly. They had to struggle to survive, their religious leaders could always marry and their heroes were not regularly killed in wars. Superiority brings envy and, sometimes, dislike. It is a price for success.

**Russell A. Palmer, Vancouver**

Maybe Barbara Amiel could "understand why the Jews have been hated with such persistence in so many cultures over so many centuries" if she could consider a few original roots of the matter. How can a people who from their biblical start considered themselves as the "chosen people" avoid being singled out? And having set themselves in that marginal position of hard survival, the Jews became economic experts whose talents were soon largely replaced by gentile governments. How could they keep from being considered responsible and accountable for global economic disparities?

**Gilles de La Poterie,  
St-Martin-de-Val, Que.**



She was named after the patron saint of music. And when Cecilia Bartoli sings, the effect on her audience is little short of miraculous: time literally appears to stand still. Yet the Jewel-like movement of her Rolex continues to tick away within its elegantly sculpted case, for Cecilia Bartoli's Lady-Datejust is an officially certified chronometer that measures the passage of time with inescapable regularity. Even when its wearer is carrying her audience away on the wings of song.

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## Notes

Edited by Tanya Davies

## Prominent 'persons'

They challenged the status quo in a way that reverberates to this day. Five Alberta women, each accomplished in her own field, came together in the 1930s to vote their wings onto the fact that a woman could not be appointed to the Canadian Senate because the British North America Act, Canada's Constitution at the time, did not recognize women as "persons." The so-called Famous Five—Nellie McClung, Emily Murphy, Irene Parry, Henrietta Muir Edwards and Louise McKinney—successfully appealed that interpretation to the British Privy Council, which declared that "the exclusion of women from all public office is a relic of days more barbarous than ours."

On Oct. 18—the 70th anniversary of the landmark Persons Case ruling—a large bronze statue of the Famous Five will be unveiled at Calgary's Olympic Plaza. Exactly one year later, an identical monument will appear on Parliament Hill. To underwrite the \$1-million cost of creating and maintaining the statues, Frances Wright, president of the Calgary-based Famous Five Foundation, sought out five prominent Canadian women willing to donate \$200,000 each. The beneficiaries: Seniors Victoria Top, a successful fashion designer and sister-in-law of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson; Heather Reisman, president of Indigo Books & Music Inc.; Toronto-based financier Kila D'Amico; Maria Erikson, owner of a Calgary corporate psychology firm, who donated



A replica of the bronze statue honoring the Famous Five trailblazers

along with her sister-in-law, author Agnès Maubert; and former University of Calgary chancellor Ann McGill, who contributed along with her daughters, Reimona and Jean.

Wright says the approached women who not only had deep pockets, but who could articulate why they had been moved by the Famous Five. Last week, they started to do just that. "These women blazed the trail," McGill told *Maclean's*. Reisman observed that it is a chance to reflect on how far women have come. "I'm sure the younger generation can't imagine a time when women weren't considered people," she says. "It's so inconsistent with current realities."

## Welcoming the 51st state

Presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan has come under fire for spouting in his new book, *A Republic, Not an Empire*, that Hitler posed no threat to the United States and Washington should have stayed out of the Second World War. Buchanan is suspicious of all foreign entanglements, and urges Americans to



watch out for their own national interests first. Still, he talks out a welcome mat for any Canadian province that wants to join the Great Republic. He writes, "America has been the most ferocious of nations in its geography

Neither Canada nor Mexico has been a security concern in this century. That is changing. In the new century, Quebec may declare independence, and the Maritime and western provinces could separate from Ottawa. Americans

may profoundly regret a breakup of Canada, but we are not a disinterested party. Should it come apart, the United States should offer trade agreements to each successor state, and stretch itself, should any breakaway Canadian province wish it." There is about zero chance, though, that Buchanan will make it to the White House and be in a position to critical the isolationist. He is on the verge of leaving the *Republican* party and seeking the nomination of the U.S. Reform party—the fast track to political oblivion.

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## A dime for the donation meter

Soon, shoppers in Burnaby, B.C., won't have to feel guilty or look away when a beggar asks for money—thanks to a city council decision last week to install "parahandling meters" in the Burnaby Heights business district, a suburb of Vancouver. "I gave at the meter," is the response council members hope shoppers will give to parahandlers when asked for loose change. A city councillor says the money will go to food banks, homeless shelters and local charities.

The two pilot change machines—specifically placed parking meters—will be installed by the end of the year as part of a community campaign to discourage vagrancy and begging. According to the city report, until recently, there were eight "regular" parahandlers working the Burnaby strip. Until the meters are in place, local businesses are handing out cash telling the public to "stop giving



A Kamloops parahandling meter: no more begging

money to parahandlers—and stop feeling guilty about it. Your loose change only lends their addiction."

The idea for the so-called beggars was borrowed from Kamloops, B.C., which installed six meters last year. Proclaiming that the Kamloops meters have been "modest," says a police report. But that hasn't stopped the Burnaby city council. "We're not saying this is something that is going to eradicate parahandling," says John Fourn, senior social planner for the city. "But, it is worth a try."

## Pop Movies

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. <i>Double Jeopardy</i> (PG-13)    | \$2,195,000 |
| 2. <i>Three Kings</i> (PG-13)        | \$1,022,540 |
| 3. <i>American Beauty</i> (PG-13)    | \$1,122,080 |
| 4. <i>The Ninth Gate</i> (PG-13)     | \$618,100   |
| 5. <i>Anna and the King</i> (PG)     | \$407,100   |
| 6. <i>Blue Devils</i> (PG-13)        | \$322,200   |
| 7. <i>My Darling Clementine</i> (PG) | \$210,100   |
| 8. <i>Shogun</i> (TV-14)             | \$160,380   |
| 9. <i>Blue in the Face</i> (PG)      | \$145,280   |
| 10. <i>The Love of the Game</i> (PG) | \$85,140    |

*Weekend in Canada, ranked according to box office receipts during the week that ended on Dec. 7. (1) includes runtimes of movies under 70 minutes. Figures in millions of dollars.*

## Finding love in London

*The Very Thought of You* is a romantic comedy about three best friends who fall for the same woman. The British film stars Joseph Fiennes, Rufus Sewell and Tom Hollander as lifelong friends and Monica Potter as Martha, an American who moves to London to escape her boozing life in Minneapolis.



Potter (left) and Fiennes: true love

Frank (Sewell) is an out-of-town actor who finds enjoyment in constantly competing with Daniel (Hollander), a pompous music executive. Laurence (Fiennes), a teacher, is tired of his old friends bickering. Meanwhile, Martha buys a one-way ticket to Britain. Alone in London, she has chance meetings with each of the friends. Daniel and Frank use an opportunity to compete for her affections—but, unbeknownst to them, Martha and Laurence have already fallen in love.

## Passages

**Announced:** The finalists for the \$25,000 1999 Giller Prize: Bonnie MacLean, 54, for *A Good Heart*; Timothy Findley, 68, for *Pilgrims*; Anne Hébert, 83, for *Am I Dying Too?*; Nancy Tharion, 46, for *The Mock of the Angel*; and David Macfarlane, 47, for *Summer Gown*, in Toronto. The Giller award for new Canadian fiction was founded in 1994 by businessman Jack Rubinovitch in memory of his late wife,



Findley

journalist Don Gillie, and is one of Canada's most prestigious literary awards. The winner will be announced at an award ceremony on Jan. 3, Toronto.

**Die:** Co-founder of Sony Corp., and the man behind the portable Walkman, Akio Morita, 76, of pneumonia, in Tokyo.

**Die:** Conductor laureate of Symphony Nova Scotia, Georg Tintner, 83, of an apparent suicide, after jumping off his eleven-story balcony, in Halifax.

**Divorcing:** Pop superstar Michael Jackson, 41, and Debbie Rowe Jackson, 40, the mother of his two children. They married in 1996 after Michael Jackson divorced Lisa Marie Presley.

**Die:** Art Farmer, 71, a bebop master of the trumpet and flugelhorn who developed a hybrid musical instrument he called a "thumper," of a heart attack, in New York City.

**Die:** Portuguese singer Amália Rodrigues, 79, whose passionate performances of the country's breeding fado music brought her international fame, in Lisbon.

**Die:** Former professional wrestler Ruben (Gorilla Monsoon) Martin, 62, who became a TV announcer and then president of the World Wrestling Federation, of complications from a recent heart attack, at his home, in Springfield, N.J.

**Convicted:** Israeli travel agent Shlomo Natan, 43, of abducting and raping Usher Abulaj, 19, the current Miss World, in Tel Aviv.



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## Opening Notes

### Best-Sellers

#### Fiction

1. *THE MAN*, David Copperfield (C) 1
2. *A NEW COULD HAVE*, Andy Cole (C) 2
3. *PERSONAL INQUIRY*, David Copperfield (C) 3
4. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 4
5. *A PLEASURE IN THE PROPER LADY*, Elizabeth Taylor (C) 5
6. *BLACK MOUNTAIN*, David Copperfield (C) 6
7. *THE MAN*, David Copperfield (C) 7
8. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 8
9. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 9
10. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 10

#### Nonfiction

1. *THE MAN*, David Copperfield (C) 1
2. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 2
3. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 3
4. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 4
5. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 5
6. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 6
7. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 7
8. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 8
9. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 9
10. *THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK*, Alexandre Dumas (C) 10

(C) = Canada's Best  
 Compiled by David Copperfield

### Lighting a candle

The resonance of lightboxes is a worldwide phenomenon, one that occasionally obscures the light's life-and-death contribution to maritime safety. Bella Buchman's *The Lightbox* (HarperCollins) is an eye-opening corrective. In the late 18th century, just as the extraordinary Stevensons—the family of Robert Lewis Stevenson, author of the seafaring classic *Robinson Crusoe*—began their work, Scotch women saw hundreds of shipwrecks annually. But between 1790 and 1940, eight members of the Stevensons family overcame tremendous odds and engineering difficulties to construct the 97 lighthouses that still dot the Scottish coastline—and still save lives every year.



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Backstage



Anthony Wilson-Smith

## Don Carty comes home

If the instincts of senior Air Canada executives had been correct eight years ago, Don Carty would now be leading them into battle instead of advising their biggest enemy. In 1991, airline officials thought naming CEO Claude Taylor was so close to hiring Carty as his replacement that they drafted a news release to that effect. Instead, Carty, then a senior executive at Fort Worth, Tex.-based American Airlines, walked away from negotiations after discussing this situation with American's chairman, Robert Crandall. Last year, he became Crandall's successor as chairman and CEO of the parent AMR Corp., and now oversees an operation that has 126,000 employees. In his first year as CEO, the company made a record profit of \$1.9 billion. "Taking the Air Canada job would have meant a huge financial hit, and I realized I have this inordinate attachment to American Airlines," recalled Carty last week. But, he added, "it was tempting, because I've always liked the idea of coming home."

Home, in this case, means literally that: on a two-day business trip to Montreal, the 55-year-old Carty stayed with his 76-year-old mother in the family house in suburban Town of Mount Royal, near his old high school. The next morning, he rolled along Sherbrooke Street West, past the apartment where he lived after taking his first airline job with Air Canada, and stopped at a restaurant for coffee and toast. The Gazette that day reported Premier Lucien Bouchard's insistence that any merger between *Canadian Airlines*—in which American Airlines holds a 29-per-cent stake—and Air Canada must be vetted and approved by the Quebec government. Carty passed for a mission, chuckling, "You must be forgetting my Quebec roots," he said. "I'd be surprised if the government wasn't demanding something."

Carty is in Canada often in the moment because of American Airlines' role in backing Qantas Corp.'s efforts to roll Air Canada and Canadian into one airline. (AMR held a board meeting in Toronto two weeks ago, and while Carty was in the city, he and Qantas CEO Gerry Schwartz—whom Carty calls "a good, good friend of many years"—went frequently to talk strategy.) A new double of the actor Jeremy Irons in appearance and his low-key, laconic manner, Carty is now a semi-perfect hybrid of two characters: he still carries some of his hard-boiled French, as a persistent slouch and his flourish in tilting his head while win acceptance in city Canadian room bar. But he does so with more than a trace of an American twang, and he sports a permanent "Iowa" smile.

Over five years ago, Carty commuted on a near-weekly basis from Dallas to a small island he owns on a lake in the Ottawa Valley, whiling away the six-hour trip by bringing files

meeting place for members of the Carty clan, including three grown-up children from his first marriage. Although he holds joint Canadian-American citizenship, he says, "In my mind, I'm Canadian; no amount of time away will change that."

He is also one of the most high-profile executives in the American airline industry, and in the eyes of many press, perhaps the smartest. He has been repeatedly wooed by other American carriers and won't comment on reports he once declined the top job at United Airlines. A graduate of Queen's University and the Harvard Business School, Carty is renowned for finding innovative technological solutions to nagging problems that ability has led to offers from companies in a variety of fields. But none, he says, offer the satisfaction of his present job. "I like it because it's so complex. The airline business has jumped up and bitten a lot of people hard over the years, but it tests your skills like nowhere else."

One of those skills is Carty's great charm. Since joining American Airlines in 1978, he worked closely for much of the past two decades with Crandall, a legend for his clear-eyed sense of direction and imperious style. Crandall led the company through airline deregulation in the 1980s, and gave American the first customer-friendly computer-reservation system and a successful frequent-flyer program. But he was often resistant to much he inspired. "Now, Carty says, carefully, "We want our people to feel more fluid in the company."

Despite his easy manner, Carty is blunt about his business. He acknowledges that the airline industry, beset by consumer complaints over everything from uncomfortable flight conditions to safety concerns to late flights, has recently faced "a public relations crisis largely of our making." Of efforts to forge a colorful new era of the Oneworld alliance with airlines that include Canadian Airlines and British Airways, Carty says, "Oneworld, I give us a B-minus. We will could do better."

And, Carty says flatly, "the industry has to change the pricing structure" of tickets. In an experiment in the early 1990s, American Airlines dropped the price of regular tickets by about 40 per cent, but announced there would be no new sales or discounts for advance purchases. Other airlines didn't follow suit, and American had to change back. But, says Carty, "the system must change. Consumers don't like it, and we must learn." That's an issue he hopes to resolve, backed by American Airlines' powerful status. If he ever succeeds, he'll give consumers a gift he could never have imagined wishing on this side of the border.

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**Haida artist Bill Reid was a national icon. But from 1980 on, suffering from the debilitating effects of disease, he relied on others to produce his work.**

# TRADE SECRETS

By Jane O'Hara

She sits in the kitchen of her small second-story apartment in Vancouver's Gastown area. While a kettle boils lightly on the stove, the woman places a series of drawings on the table. It is, she says, the first time she has shown the sketches to a stranger. They are stunningly erotic, among the last works by Haida artist Bill Reid—who died last year at 78, after a 30-year battle with the debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease. Setting the drawings down, the woman, who had a long-standing affair with Reid while he was married to his third and last wife, Marjorie, says she admires "the playfulness and liveliness of the lines." Yet what stands out is the graphic nature of the compositions, which combine Haida iconography with another of Reid's obsessions: sex. Described by one re-girlfriend as a "conspicuous womanizer—it was almost like his hobby," Reid depicted a killer whale making love to a woman in one drawing. In another, he rendered a penis as a totem pole. "Bill was entranced by the femininity, the dark side of the light," says the woman who owns the sketches—and, in fact, posed for one that was

rendered on a wooden drum. "He liked to drink in public—but he filled the shadows, too."

That side of the master goldsmith and Haida carver is well-known among some members of Canada's art world. To the public, Reid projected a benign and grandfatherly image. He was viewed as a mystic figure, an artistic genius and old-fashioned character with a mind at once devilishly witty and deeply scholarly. But others who knew him well are less flattering. Described variously by associates as "a charming bastard" and "a pathological egomaniac," Reid was capable of ruthlessly running an insider—many of whom helped advance his career. And his formidable artistic success had a dark side as well.

By the late 1970s, Reid, who was poor Haida, had become a cultural icon in British Columbia, a presence on the front lines of a brewing battle between Indian rights and white entitlement. At the time, his reputation was, for the most part, based on beautifully executed, finely detailed gold and silver jewelry. But the height of his fame was still to come—through a series of grandiose



Photo by Peter Dinklage/Art



With wife Marjorie in 1997, among many artists, bitterness for not receiving credit

sculptures based on Haida mythology, and produced between 1980 and the early 1990s. Reid, who ran his business through his own company, Wilkata Reid Ltd., was never a prolific artist. Nevertheless, even in his Parkinson's disease-inflicted over that time, he produced an astounding body of work, five major commissions, as well as many smaller pieces in silver, gold, wood and bronze—not to mention other items, such as prints, painted drums and paddles.

How did he do it? Though Reid was still capable of drawing, designing and supervising, almost everything was carved, painted or fabricated to a significant degree by other artists and assistants. "I guess if anyone had really thought about it, they would have known he couldn't have done this all himself," says Haida carver Jim Hart, whose elegant carving became the signature for some of Reid's best-known work. "That's the worst kept secret in the business—who did what for Bill," adds Don Yeomans, another noted Haida carver who worked for Reid.

Few outside the tightly knit Vancouver art scene knew that Reid's Parkinson's disease had reached such an advanced state that he was often incapable of working. In her definitive study of the artist, published in 1986 and revised in 1998, respected Vancouver art historian Don Shadbolt did not treat the disease as illness. Reid was forced to rely on others, and she characterized the larger commissions as "joint efforts under his control." But even many of those in the know did not realize the extent of his dependence on Haida as well as white artists. In fact, those who produced his work joke that they were his "slaves." But the humour hides deep resentment: in more than 30 interviews with those who produced Reid's work, a pattern of bitter complaints emerges.

Some acknowledge that without Reid's power and connections with the media, galleries and museums, there would have been no work for other carvers. Yeomans, for one, expresses gratitude for the opportunity to have worked with

**'There's a lot of young people out there now who think the secret to success is who you can hire, as opposed to what you can do'**

*The Jade Canoe: a \$3-million sculpture for the Vancouver airport*

Reid—and for all Reid did for the cause of Haida art. But many artists say they felt used, were badly paid and got little credit for their labour. In the end, the situation had deteriorated to the point that Shadbolt, the widow of the famous West Coast painter Jack Shadbolt, calls Reid's last major exhibition, in 1992, an artistic "fiasco."

The use of other artists and assistants by no means diminishes the grandeur of Reid's best-known work. Those brought in to produce his pieces were usually the best in the business—even though they had to peek their eyes behind the Reid signposts. It will be up to the art world, though, to assess the impact of the practice on the issues of authorship and value—as well as its ongoing impact on other native artists. "How did it go into the past when the same thing goes on today?" Yeomans asks. "What I see in our craft is a bastardization that has evolved from people who have tried to use Bill's method of operation as a template for their career. A lot of young people now think the secret to success is who you can hire, as opposed to what you can do."

**Bill Reid was born in 1920.** His father was an American of Scottish and German descent; his mother was a Haida from Skidegate in the Queen Charlotte Islands who hid her native heritage from Reid until he was a teenager. Raised mostly in Victoria where his mother worked as a seamstress, Reid was brought up to be the perfect English gentleman. He also possessed a mesmerizing voice, which, combined with his command of the language, led him initially to a career as a broadcaster. But at 23, while working for a small Vancouver radio station, Reid took his first trip to the Queen Charlottes. There, he watched his grandfather, Charles Gladstone, carve—a glimpse into the culture of his mother's people that would open a new chapter in his life.

In 1945, Reid moved east, ending up in Toronto three years later where he studied jewelry-making at what was then the Ryerson Institute of Technology while working as a CBC broadcaster. In 1952, married to his first wife and with a child, Reid returned to Vancouver. There, he started making jewelry and developing contacts among University of British Columbia anthropologists. In 1957, they asked him to help them salvage nar-

ding totem poles from the Queen Charlotte Islands—a project that remains controversial among some natives to this day. As his personal reputation grew, Reid went on to help carve a Totem Park at the university.

He had never lived in the Queen Charlotte Islands and learned almost everything about Haida culture from white tourists. But he successfully managed to spin Haida history for his own purposes—even as he helped further the native cause. In the process, he received credit for reviving a dying art form—overshadowing the many carvers in the Queen Charlottes who had kept the flame alive. And his public criticism of the Haida often rankled. In 1986, during the building of *Loxos*, a 15-m war canoe for display at Expo 86, Vancouver's world fair, Reid told a reporter that the Indians were so incompetent they needed to be told "what end of a hammer to use." Further, he claimed they were underpaid and drank too much. The recently elected president of the Haida Nation, whose name is Guguwah and who carved on various Reid projects, told *Artforum* that Reid was a bore to many in the Queen Charlottes for lending his prominent name to Haida land-claim issues and bringing Haida art to international attention. As for the art, he said, "we were basically took, but my means to end it legitimate—I'm glad to have been a part of it." But, he added, "Reid seemed to think that by putting our people down he would elevate himself."

Reid's critical comments about the Haida also struck some people as wildly hypocritical. Sharon Hitchcock, a Haida artist from the Queen Charlottes, was mainly responsible for designing and drawing the imposing *Mler* whale design on the bow and stern of the *Loxos*. That is never mentioned anywhere in literature dealing with Reid's work. Neither is it noted that, according to Hitchcock, Reid himself was drunk many nights while overseeing the painting of the canoe. At 5 p.m. sharp, she says, he would put

down his tools and send her to the liquor store for a large bottle of rum—which he would then consume in the cramped A-frame house where he lived at the time. "He tried to get me to buy in the A-frame," Hitchcock recalls. "But I couldn't handle him drinking."

In the end, Reid angered Queen Charlottes carvers so much that none would work for him on his first masterpiece, *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii* (also known as *The Black Canoe*). The five-ton bronze sculpture, overflowing with mythological creatures, was based on a small black argillite "spirit canoe" Reid studied at the Vancouver Museum, and was unveiled in 1981 at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. In 1993, the Vancouver airport paid \$3 million for a copy. *The Jade Canoe*—the highest price ever for a Canadian work of art. Ironically, Reid's main contribution to the Spirit project was as designer and supervisor. The final carving was done mostly by white artists.

In 1980, Haida artist Jim Hart was 27 and unfamiliar with city ways when he first arrived in Vancouver from the Queen Charlottes. When his plane touched down at Vancouver airport, it seemed there were more people in the baggage claim area than in his entire home town of Masset. A slim but powerful carver with a long black ponytail, Hart soon got word that Reid wanted him to work for him. Lurie did not know that his first job would involve carving the finishing details—known as "surfacing" or "putting the skin on the bird," as one artist describes it. At \$10 an hour, Reid wanted him to surface his masterful creation, the 2.4-m-high yellow cedar *Raven* and the *First Aline*. Lurie did anyone else know that for the next four years, Hart's elegant and meticulous carving would give life to some of Reid's best-known work. George Ramenell, the white Vancouver sculptor whose energy and artistic intelligence helped Reid refine the last 13 projects of his career, refers to it as the "season on the surface"—Jim was a master at that. And, he adds, "Bill often talked about that season. He didn't have the skills to do that at that point. He never



*The Reid in 1989: among the best artists in the business*



*The Jade Canoe: a \$3-million sculpture for the Vancouver airport*



*Reid's artist seal: 'Bill now arrived by the forbidden—the dark side of the light'*

did, actually—he wasn't a surfer like Jim, he was an intellectual anthropologist, not a craft-based artist."

Based on an original eight-centimeter beowood carving done by Reid in 1970, *The Raven and the First Men* is now the favorite that is the centerpiece at the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology. When it was finished, it elevated Reid's reputation from a local Haida goldsmith to master sculptor and brought him a far broader audience. But with his Parkinson's getting more severe, Reid needed help. "Bill was great at using experts," says Rasmussen. "He didn't hate you because of your illness, he hated you for your soul, your whole energy. He expected to dig him out of the fire. Some artists use clay—Bill used people."

To get Reid off the ground, Reid desperately needed his old friend and well-known Vancouver sculptor George Norrís to sign on. At first, Norrís was very reluctant to get involved with a Haida project. But Reid beseeched him. "Bill was the most charming man imaginable when he wanted to be," says one artist friend. "He had men and women dancing around him." Added the non-native Norrís, in a recent interview: "He had a way of drawing people into his web."

Using European techniques and spatial geometry, Norrís scaled Reid's up to its massive size and roughed it out for finishing. When Reid needed someone to carve the smaller male figure that seems to be hatching from the charnel in the sculpture, he hired Rasmussen. Haida carver Guuguuq and Reg Davidson were brought in to do work as well, but Guuguuq quit because of the involvement of white men. In the case of Reid, the contributions of others are openly acknowledged on a sign in the Museum of Anthropology that Norrís says that for extended periods of time, even Norrís, Reid never showed up at the two-year-long project: "I left him a note once, and never got an answer."

Rasmussen recalls that even in the latter stages, weeks would go by with Reid absent. "Bill used to say those projects were on automatic pilot," he recalls. "Kids—because we were doing them." At times, Reid would arrive in a grey Rolls-Royce owned by a friend, take out his lumber crayon to make changes, or use a hook knife to show how he wanted a figure carved. At minimum, Reid might put in three hours at a time, especially when camera crews documenting the process were around or the piece was nearing completion. "There were a lot of times Bill wasn't there," says Rasmussen. "He was still calling the shots. But he wasn't making the cuts."

When Hart began the critical and laborious work of surfacing the sculpture, Reid gave him this one advice: "Just finish it, get her done." That was the last he heard from Reid for a month. In all, Hart worked six months and was paid \$10 a month to finish the sculpture. But it wasn't the wages that



awoke him. His disappointment came when he watched a film on the making of the sculpture and realized there wasn't a single frame of him. When he later asked Museum of Anthropology staff for a still photo of his work, he was told none could be found. "Eventually I got one," says Hart. "That proved I was there."

For Hart, it was a brutal lesson in the politics of the art world and how Reid used the media—particularly film and television—to magnify his influence. As a former CBC broadcaster, Reid had work connections that served him well. "Bill didn't waste his energy," says Rasmussen. "He was feeding the machine. He understood that a lot of his force had to do with television." In some of the productions documenting his work, Reid either wrote and narrated the script or was a co-producer, partly financing the projects or keeping the rights to final script approval. (Once, when Reid was unhappy about a documentary, he even asked another filmmaker to remake it.) Hart, now 47 and one of the survivors of Haida art, says he learned a huge lesson from Reid—and it had nothing to do with carving. "I learned a lot about how the game was played from Bill," he says. "They took lots of shots of me, but didn't put me in the film. I'm sure Bill had a lot to do with that, just knowing how he operates."

After the project, Norrís never worked with Reid again

Rasmussen: To hand you for your soul, your whole energy

their friendship, which dated back to the 1950s, was effectively over. Today, he will only hint at what happened, saying: "I must have thought of it as one of Bill's hand hands. The last thing I want to be remembered for is being somebody else's slave." But many in the art community know of Norrís's importance to the project—and how Reid wounded him for his trouble. "George Norrís did the work, and when it was finished Bill went out and actively tried to destroy his reputation, saying he was incompetent and hard to work with," says Jeffrey Miller, the talented goldsmith who produced some of Reid's jewelry pieces. "Bill did it so Reid would be thought of as his puppet entirely. Bill couldn't have had the spotlight if people had known how responsible George was for that sculpture."

**Not just the spotlight.** In the world of Bill Reid Ltd., the financial stakes were also high. In 1982, Vancouver's Equinox Gallery sold a gold version of the intricately carved *Daylight Transformation Pendant*, originally rendered in beowood, to a local collector for around \$100,000. Friends say Reid was deliciously happy with the high price. But although Reid had started the beowood version, he made mistakes due to his illness and had to hand the work over to Hart, who says he salvaged it. Rasmussen recalls seeing the original in its very form, then the finished version, and being "amazed at how it was done—it was impeccable. Bill said he did it—and I still don't believe it. It looked like something Jim would have done. Some of the detail was too fine—Jim had the skills to do that."

Miller concurs. He says: "Most of the things Bill did at this time were a mess." Miller saw the beowood carving at the beginning stages, laughed out with crude shapes. "Then, Bill went to the Charlottes where Jim Hart was and he came back with a masterpiece," says Miller. "It was Bill's vision and he directed the carving, but he couldn't do it with his own hands." Weeks later, Reid asked Miller to help him make a

copy in gold. But Miller's participation has never been noted. Other symbols of the piece, meanwhile, were made on the Reid's workshop: one was submitted for sale by Vancouver's Douglas Mowat Gallery in 1994 for \$200,000.

Andy Sylvester, co-owner of the Equinox Gallery, says he "never had any reason to doubt that the *Transformation* pendant was anything other than Reid's." He told Mowat he was "shocked" over the involvement of others, adding, "This is a revelation." Miller, meanwhile, recalls how the highly decorated Reid begged to keep working on the piece even though his tremorous hands were incapable of engraving. "It was the worst thing that could have happened to someone so dedicated to fine detail work," he says. "But he had tremendous dignity. When he had messed something up because he had lost control, he would leave me a note saying, 'Sorry about this screw-up. I kind of fell apart last night.' I could have produced five of those pieces in the time it took us to produce one. It was enraging."

Marlene Reid acknowledges that, by the 1980s, her husband "was probably not very capable of carving hard metal." He could, she said in an interview, carve wood—from which models were made for casting pieces of jewelry—and do rough work, shaping or ornamenting metal by hammering on the back. In the case of the beowood *Daylight Transformation Pendant*, which she now owns, she insists the work is Reid's. "Jim Hart never touched that—he must be thinking of something else." And even when others did the work, she says, the pieces are Reid's because "the designs are Bill's. No piece has been allowed on the market without Bill's standard of craftsmanship being accepted by him." Vancouver goldsmith Chang Sun, who acknowledges that he did many pieces for Reid, also says that, ultimately, the authenticity of these works remains Reid's. "I'm just the hands," says Sun, who often engraved Reid's signature, from a stencil, onto the

## A spokesman for the Haida cause

In the winter of 1985, an ailing Bill Reid was helicoptered onto the Queen Charlotte Islands to join a Haida blockade of a logging road. Reid only stayed a day on L'Anse-au-Loup, but his commitment to the Haida and their land-claim battle was fierce. He spoke passionately and wrote prominently about preserving Haida territory. He even mentioned off his network in support of the fight. "The real value of Bill Reid was in making an international profile," says Guuguuq, president of the Haida Nation. "He grew us a lot of support."

About 2,500 Haida now live in the Queen Charlottes, known as Haida Gwaii, the many, forested archipelago off the northern coast of British Columbia. At the height of their power in the mid-19th century, the Haida numbered about 8,000 and lived in 14 different villages. They were known as traders and raiders, admired for their seamanship and feared for their ability to make war against neighboring tribes. But by 1915, European diseases like smallpox had decimated the Haida, reducing their number to around 500.

The loss of Canada were also devastating. Haida were rounded up from their villages and forced to move to other Skeena or Mowat—which remain the two main centres. They along with other Indian bands, were also prohibited from speaking their language and practicing native customs. Children were taken from their families and sent to residential schools. Haida artist Robert Davidson says the Haida are still feeling the effects of these disastrous policies. But he also means a return to traditional customs—a sign that the Haida resistance. Bill Reid helped fuel a contrasting,

J.O.

pieces he worked on. Everything was, Stan adds, "Reid's designs. I don't think it's mine."

All this may be news to collectors who think that, for a substantial investment, they are buying along with an artist's signature, some hands-on involvement. "Buyer beware," says Toronto art dealer Olga Korpen. She says she accepts the notion that "the concept and the idea and the vision is authorship—I do not think it's necessary for the artist to be the craftsman." But Korpen adds that these are "grey areas—if a piece was made totally by a studio assistant and I found out, I might not want to buy that piece, no matter how much the artist supervised it." Being led to believe that an artist personally created a piece when in fact it was carved by someone else is also a grey area. In that case, net-net Korpen, the matter could end up in court—"If you were led to believe it was a Bill Reid by Bill Reid's hand."

Hart also says he salvaged another valuable Reid boxwood carving: a 10-cm killer whale. Again, Reid signed the original. But his increasing hand issues, according to Hart, made it "impossible." Hart adds: "I could see the hint of what he was handling for, but it was pretty rough. There was enough wood left to do stuff with—a so I just took a few and did it for him." Reid's physical commitment consisted of the words at the base of the statue. It was the prototype for the 5.4-cm bronze killer whale sculpture, actually made by Rasmussen and installed at the Vancouver Aquarium in 1984. Neither Rasmussen's nor Hart's name appears anywhere on the sculpture—a small plaque features only Reid's name. And to this day, the Vancouver Aquarium Web site credits Reid with having "sculpted" the work.

In the early days, Hart was happy for the work from Reid and still poses him for championing the Haida people and their art. Still, he soon grew tired of being "lurk in the backroom" and "meant as a pain in the back." But Reid made it hard for Hart to leave. At one point, Reid bought Hart a Toyota Land Cruiser and had him work off the car. Reid offered a similar deal to Clayton Glatstone, another Haida carver, in the late 1980s (some believe it was Reid's way of keeping his Haida workers dependent once they reached the city).

Often they were either underpaid or not paid at all. Rick Adkins, a Haida artist who lives in a man-down hotel on



## Reid would create the illusion of control when people came to watch him work

Robert Davidson, profiled Reid with expanding the appreciation of Haida art

Vancouver's downtown. Estrada, admits he was flustered when Reid gave him a silver bear box to engrave around 1986. Reid had tried engraving it himself but, according to Adkins, "it was a mess. He didn't totally destroy it, but it was a lot of work to clean it up." Still, that was why labour compared with trying to collect from Reid. "I assigned an outrageous low amount of money for the piece," says Adkins. The box eventually won the Sadye Boylston Award, under Reid's name, for excellence in the crafts and was exhibited at the Museum of Civilization in Hull, Que. "But I was too intimidated to haggle and I was scared. He was already pretty old and decrepit and I didn't want to go down in history as the guy who killed Bill Reid. But he hated handing out money."

B.C. native artist Ben Houside had similar problems. In 1985, Reid asked him to paint 36 puddles for him at \$200 a head. After that, Reid asked Houside, a member of the Kwakwaka'wakw, to paint 25 wooden drums based on Reid designs. In the early 1990s, the Reid drums, also produced by two other artists, were a hot-selling item for which collectors were willing to pay between \$100,000 and \$200,000 apiece. Houside started painting the drums for \$500 each. It was a laborious process that meant taking Reid's rough designs, reworking them and then doing the actual painting. But Houside was fast and good, he could turn out a drum in about five hours. When Houside learned that one of Reid's fine drums sold for \$200,000, he asked Reid for a \$250 raise. "He said no," says Houside, who now lives in a squallid commune in the Vancouver suburb of Surrey and supports himself and his teenage son by selling prints and doing odd painting jobs. Two weeks later, Reid rebuffed Houside—with his raise—after he could find no one else.

**How did Reid manage** to perpetuate the image that he was the sole creator of his work? People in the art world say that once art becomes an industry and the art dealers and market forces come into play, myth-building begins and the machine takes over. Throughout history, artists have run huge workshops with many assistants. Rodin and Picasso, for example, had people working for them. Art historians are now trying to untangle exactly who did what and how authorship will ultimately determine the value of many works.

Although the practice was far less common in North America, American sculptor Wade Goodman in 1993 shed some light on the issue in *Art in America* magazine. He said the practice of using assistants, particularly in art forms like New York

City, has been increasing. But pressure to keep a quiet corner from gallery owners and art dealers who are afraid prices may fall. In 1980, when Saunderson put on a show of his work in New York, he made a prominent sign listing his assistant names and what jobs they performed. His dealer told him to remove the sign—or reduce it to a mere list of names.

Hart and others remember how Reid would create the illusion of control when people came to watch him work. "He'd show off for them," Hart says. "He'd grab a tool and start prying around, pick right in there and destroy an area. Then we'd clean it up. He was so strong to carry on under all that pressure, but he'd end up giving the best he could, carving his fingers or making some kind of mess of himself and also making a mess of some part of the work. But that was the game. It was showmanship: showing people he was the master, that it was his work and his project."

During the making of *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii*, it was a running joke with workers on the project: if Reid came to the studio, he'll be followed shortly by his enourage, a constant stream of collectors, dignitaries, museum directors and gallery owners. (One day architect Arthur Erickson—who designed the Canadian Embassy in Washington and set his old friend Reid up for the commission for the sculpture—brought American actress Shirley MacLaine to the studio to see it being made.) Usually, Reid would start giving orders to the workers in front of the guests, jargonizing in his deep, raspy voice: "Oh, they just don't get it. They just can't do it." Then he would walk away. "We had to put up with this stuff," says Rasmussen, "and I found it harrowing."

In 1985, Reid hired Vancouver impresario Chris Wooten as a project supervisor. One of Wooten's jobs was to find money to fund Reid's work. First, he secured \$350,000 from the now-defunct Bank of British Columbia for Reid to produce *Lenten*. With some of that money, Wooten made affidavits concerning the process. Wooten freely acknowledges that Rasmussen was the only money Reid was able to get his major commissions done. "He couldn't do it himself—he wasn't capital," says Wooten. "But the

public didn't know. It was sort of like FDR [former U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt]. People didn't know he had polio. Bill didn't want people to know how ill he was. Part of it was pride and part was marketing, but more pride than anything else. It wasn't a conspiracy, but there was recognition that letting people know wasn't such a good idea."

Wooten says Reid would make a superhuman effort to appear healthy for public appearances or the filming of his work. But that meant his handlers and assistants—a constantly changing group—often spent as much time taking care of his physical needs as they did managing projects or producing art. Until Reid got full-time nursing in 1990, there was no one to make sure he took his medicine every three hours (the medication itself is known to cause mood swings and disorientation). "It was chaos," says Rasmussen, who would go to pick Reid up in the morning and often find the one-foot, three-inch artist lying on the hardwood living-room floor. And the struggle took its toll. "He would perform publicly in ways you didn't think he was capable," says Wooten. "I saw that as many times. You would have to force him to the point of getting his energy up—then he would pry fix it for a few days afterward."

**Despite Reid's immense success**, there was an ever-growing need for money to support an increasingly fragile lifestyle. But friendships that up until the mid-1970s Reid shared the life of a struggling artist, growing increasingly often

living with fellow artists who would receive Reid jewelry instead of rent. More than one friend has accused that Reid was "terrible with money." He never seemed to have cash or a credit card when he went for lunch with others. When Gwynne once took him on a shopping trip to buy pants and shoes, he himself had to pay for the shopping out of his own pocket. After his 1981 marriage to Martine, Reid's lifestyle changed. As far as one old career partner James Watt: "It wasn't for Martine, it'll be living out of a suitcase." With fine taste in luxury, the Reid owned matching bio-and-bamboo commodes on Vancouver's prestigious ocean drive, Point Grey Road, and had a summer house on Tlesis Island, just east of Vancouver Island. They took trips to Europe each year, owning a apartment in Paris that was sometimes rented out to friends. Reid occasionally had associates and friends he was in trouble with "the man in grey suit," Revenue Canada. In 1992—before moving \$3 million from the sale of *The Jade Cowrie*—he moved himself and his business into two wooden townhouses he rented on the Metchosin Reserve in Vancouver. There, as a native, he didn't have to pay income tax. In this day, his company, now solely owned by his widow, enjoys tax-free status.

Thereover was the key in keeping the funds



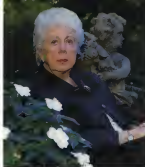
Art's Delight: Transformation. Pendant: Killer Whale (top); for many Haida, Reid remained a hero

## The high price of Bill Reid's art

Throughout Bill Reid's career, the value of his art soared. Some of the most lucrative works and reported prices:

1. **The Jade Cowrie**, a version of *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii*, now in the Vancouver International Airport, \$3 million.
2. **The Spirit of Haida Gwaii**, the original bronze version at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, \$1.5 million.
3. **Dragonfly Transformation** Pendant, a gold piece based on a boxwood carving, now in private hands, \$100,000.

Art historian Shadbolt:  
"The time of Bill Reid's  
original pieces was past"



rolling in—there was, at any given time, a lot of work in progress. Also among Women's responsibilities was making pieces Reid had jotted out. On July 29, 1986, according to documents obtained by *Maclean's*, Women wrote Grace Studio Ltd.—which produced small items for Reid in the 1970s and '80s—to inquire about the following items that were being made: a silver bear bowl, spoons, gold and silver 10-cm whales, bear door knobs and an ivory box. Regarding the production of a gold and silver necklace, "Women wrote: 'Bill needs to find someone to do it.' Grace Studio Ltd. also made rings, pendants and brooches for Reid. A frog necklace it made for \$10,800 in 1988 was advertised for sale four years later for \$160,000. [The studio's relationship with Reid ended when owner Grace Mooney questioned the authorship of one of his designs.]

As well as minding the shop, Women secured a \$100,000 federal training grant so Reid could bring his Haida apprentices to Vancouver from the Queen Charlotte Islands for "skills enhancement training." But Reid was so ill he supervised them and Ramnall took over. "Bill was sick more than half the time," says Grace Mooney, one of the four who sold everything he owned in Skegway to come to Vancouver to study with Reid. "He either didn't show up or when he did he would just go out and sit in his office and stare out at once in awhile." At one point, Reid came to check their work on two totem poles and noted that the nose on one of the figures was too large. He accidentally chipped it off. "That was what it was like with that disease," recalls Mooney. "He'd bounce around and jib all over the place. And you'd have to clean it up."

## Reid's quest to put himself and his art on the map has left some bitterness in its wake

The talented Haida carver Youmans from Prince Rupert, with the dashing good looks of Hollywood actor George Clooney, began working for Reid in 1986 when he carved a totem pole called *Shedding Ship*, a commission Reid had received during Vancouver centennial celebrations. That same year, Youmans moved closer for his work. But in 1983, Reid also approached Youmans for help with a wooden staff (a model

taken from it provided the bronze staff for the totem figure at *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii*). That wooden staff was eventually sold in 1992 at Reid's last show held at the Buntzen Museum Gallery. There, gallery owner described it "as an interpretation by Bill" of an old Haida staff.

Youmans says Reid never touched it and that he carved it with the help of a white Vancouver Island public. For Youmans, the show shows how little the buying public knows about Haida art. "I say anyone who would buy that staff and not know I did it, doesn't know much about this art," he says.

"I have no sympathy for them. You're asking to be taken for a ride, whether by Bill or by anybody." At that last show, which featured \$681,000 worth of items, other questions about quality and authenticity surfaced. Reid was berated, but, as he himself described it, "the well-made object," unique, hand-carved works of jewelry that earned him comparison with world-renowned goldsmiths like Fabergé and Cartier. But even in an untrained eye, many of the pieces in the 1992 show could not compare with Reid's earlier work.

For Doris Shadbolt, the show was a disgrace. In the past, Shadbolt had invested much of her critical reputation in Reid. In 1967 and 1974, he curated shows of his masterpieces at the Vancouver Art Gallery. In 1986, when Shadbolt wrote a book on Reid, she almost single-handedly elevated his work from anthropological craft to fine art. She believed the last show was put on simply for the money. "The time of Bill's original pieces was past and there were too many reproductions of one thing and another," she said during a recent interview. "Of course pieces being reproduced as more important than they were. It was terrible." Barry Mooney, owner of the gallery, says Shadbolt's comments are "purely in the most extreme level." "Bill had apprentices," says Mooney, "but if he in the display and even if he puts his finger on the piece of work, it's his work, he has the right to put his name on it."

**Ramnall, a thin, modest sculptor** with an angular face that appears carved from rock, was Reid's most loyal lieutenant. When Reid needed help, Ramnall was there. In 1983, he carved a small copy version of *The Raven and the Fox* for Reid, which sold for a reported \$750,000 in a Vancouver collector. When Reid couldn't carve his own name into it, Ramnall did it for him. Two years later, he did the finishing work on Reid's dramatic-looking wooden form *Phyllophila*, which went to the Vancouver Art Gallery in a \$550,000 sale. Ramnall often had to pretend he was a mere technician when working on Reid's projects. "I made it easy for him—I called myself a foreman."

In 1985, Reid once again turned to Ramnall when he got the commission to produce a sculpture for the Canadian Embassy. That year they began sculpting out a small half-metre clay model for *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii*. "He had this little baby side and would chop at things," remembers Ramnall. "Then he'd shuffle away and come back, add a bit of mud and walk away." Ramnall says Reid had some good ideas for the creature (in the book, but adds, "the rest of the piece is just like spaghetti"). Reid couldn't seem to focus on the project; he wouldn't let Ramnall work he wanted, and never even provided a working sketch. "It wasn't just the Parkinson's," Ramnall says, "because he had lost of energy for other things, politics and finances out and the lawyers. I felt like he was playing a game."

From the clay model, they developed a plaster working model. Not quite career Doug Zilliox was brought in to begin surfacing it and giving it some definition to the shape. "I was wanting to be happy with it," recalls Zilliox. "It was finally coming around." But one morning he came into work and found the model in a thousand pieces on the studio floor. Word spread quickly through the artistic community. Where Reid had caught Reid with the latest in a string of women. Infatuated, she dropped the model with a hammer. "Marlene lost it," says one worker who was involved with the project. "But she had the gift. It was a zoo."

When Haida Gwaii was nearing completion, Reid made his first visit to the Canadian Embassy to see where the piece would sit. Only then did he realize that because of the site location, the sculpture would have to face the wrong way—with its good side partially obscured. Reid asked Ramnall if he could invert the sculpture, but it was impossible: the piece was on its way to going more than \$1 million over the \$250,000 budget that Nelson Brands, which sponsored it, was willing to pay in terms of location. *The Jade Gown* copy fired back. Reid originally wanted it in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery. It was another the food stall in the international department area of Vancouver International Airport, where signs reading "Please Do Not Climb on the Airwalk" are intended to keep children from creating it like monkey bars.

Ramnall's name appears nowhere on the embassy sculpture's dedication plaque. He was not even invited to the official unveiling—for the last six months of the project, he and Reid weren't speaking. Ramnall says if he had to do it over, he would never have worked on the project. "At the end, Bill got really mad at me," Ramnall says. "I was like an electric guitar that wouldn't turn on for him anymore. He couldn't understand that." When Reid spoke in 1996 at the airport unveiling of *The Jade Gown*, Reid never mentioned his name, instead saying: "There are too many people for me to thank."

**In fact, a whole nation.** Reid used the Haida, incorporating their traditions in his art and employing native craftsmen. But the Haida, for whom Reid claimed for the most part a hero, used him as well, as an eloquent and well-connected spokesman for native rights. Still, Reid's quest to put himself and his art on the map has left some bitterness in its wake.

Robert Davidson, 52, now considered the dean of Haida

carvers, worked for many years in Reid's shadow. But many in the art world, including Ramnall, believe he was always by Reid's inspired designer. He just couldn't compete with Reid's persuasive speaking style or with his powerful connections to what institutions—the anthropologists, museums, media and galleries in the early 1980s, Davidson for the commission for the Vancouver Aquarium's killer whale sculpture to Reid after the latter put in a last-minute submission. As one Haida put it: "The white guys always get to pick their Indian."

Davidson is quick to credit Reid with expanding the appreciation for Haida art and helping create a thriving mar-



Here: "kept in the back room and treated as a pair of hands"

ket. He also says Reid raised the standards of craftsmanship. But Davidson is equally quick to point out that Reid, in climbing to the top, played fast and loose with some truths, perpetuating the view, popularized by anthropologists, that Haida art was on the point of extinction. In the mid-1980s, Reid claimed to great public approval that he was going to reinvent the last art of Haida canoe building, maintaining that hadn't been one built for 100 years. In fact, Davidson says his grandfather and great uncle built one in 1937.

After that time, according to Davidson, the Haida began building wooden canoe boats—not because the art of canoe building was disappearing, but because the different style was better for fishing. Further, Davidson notes the names of about 20 skilled carvers who produced Reid and kept Haida art three despite white law prohibiting natives from celebrating their culture. "When I was 13 or 14, I had already been labelled the last of the carvers," Robertson says. "But I was just getting started." That was in the 1950s—when the older Reid was just getting started to sell. He would soon come into his own, flamboyant, disquieting and ambitious. He would become a life-span-of-life icon who cast a huge shadow, one that ultimately obscured his fellow artists—as well as some asseverating crafts. □

# KEEPER OF THE FLAME

Martine Reid arrives for an interview dressed in a silk jacket, leopard-style pants and knee-high black leather boots—but driving a battered, blue Renault. Prominently displayed on the car's windshield is the free-parking pass given to her late husband in 1984 when he was honored as a Freeman of the City of Vancouver. But Bill Reid's widow has more than just free parking privileges in the city. As the president of William Reid Ltd., the company he set up in 1982, a year after they married, she is now solely responsible for the sale of his work. As well, she and a group of local business people are now looking for private and public funding to establish a Bill Reid museum to keep the artist's legacy alive. "I love the idea of a museum dedicated to one artist," says the petite Reid. "That's a struggle to that."

And also controversy. Some white artists in Vancouver say the last thing the art world needs is another publicly funded shrine to a Haida art. Even some Haida artists wonder whether a Reid museum is necessary. "People are still trying to best Bill to death, and trying to outdo each other," says one Queen Charlotte Islander. And one Maritime Reid seems enough passion for a museum? Most of her late husband's best work is in the hands of private collectors or in private museum collections.

## Martine Reid tries to keep her late husband's legacy alive

may find that another partnership serves them better."

In 1975, when Martine and Bill Reid first met, he was almost twice her age, twice married and recently diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. She was an anthropology student on an exchange program from France. Reid was accompanied by the elegant European. Friends often mixed accounts of their meeting. "She was the best thing that ever happened to Bill," says one. But James Wan, who worked with Reid on *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii*, says Reid was openly contemptuous of his wife. "He was saying horrible things about her within five days of meeting me," he recalls. "Bill said it was a marriage of convenience."

In 1990, Reid told one longtime friend he wanted a divorce. But when he learned a lawyer, he was told he would have to split everything with Martine—including his precious works of art. "They were his inspiration and his validation,"



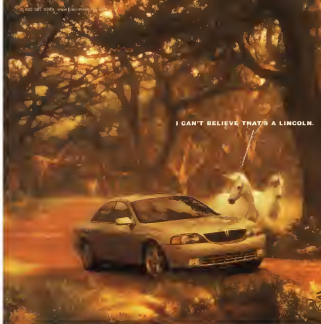
With former foreign minister Andrew Gorkin and Ambassador Raymond Chretien in Washington, in 1996. (Business Wire)

says the friend. Martine Reid, meanwhile, told *Atlantic* she was in love with her spouse's mind and "never really saw him as a husband." Throughout their marriage, she says, she tried to create an environment for him to work in "without being too busy or dragon-like." It wasn't easy—Reid's longtime friends, she says, were suspicious of her. "I felt that I was a threat to them," she says. "They thought they owned part of him and that I was interfering."

As Reid's Parkinson's disease grew more severe, his wife became a more integral part of his increasingly messy business. In the 1990s, Reid was involved in three lawsuits. In one, he sued a friend over a business project that went sour (the suit is ongoing). In 1993, a former employee, Sharrin Balla, filed suit against the Reids, alleging she had been cut out of her commission after arranging the \$3-million sale of *The Jade Cove* (that suit was settled three years later). Balla says she received just over \$100,000. And in 1997, the Reids filed suit against their agent, Beachline Modern Gallery, but it was settled out of court.

Martine Reid's job now is keeping her husband's legacy alive. But in May, she put five lots of vintage jewelry—bracelets, pendants and earrings—up for auction at Christie's in New York City. None sold, and in fact there was only a sprinkling of bids—the Reid part of the auction was over in two minutes and 20 seconds. "Christie's set the prices too high," says Martine. "It was a gamble." The question now is whether the Bill Reid estate will sustain his other plans.

J.O.



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# Beyond Burnt Church

The lobster war escalates into a national debate over native traditions and special rights

By John DeMont

The longer the talks dragged on at a Halifax hotel last week, the more the pressure weighed on Wilfred Dolans, chief of the Burnt Church Mi'kmaq reserve in New Brunswick. The message from his angry band members back home was unequivocal: even if it would lead to peace in the escalating Burnt Church lobster dispute, they had no intention of pulling their traps from Miramichi Bay. But the lobbying was intense inside the stuffy meeting room where the region's Mi'kmaq chiefs gathered with federal Fisheries Minister Herb Dhalwail. By mid-afternoon, 25 of them had heeded the minister's call for a self-imposed 30-day moratorium on lobster fishing. But 10 chiefs continued to insist on the compromise.

In hallways and the hotel's back alley, native leaders and federal officials huddled with Burnt Church council members, trying to strike a deal that Dolans and the nine other holdout chiefs could support. Through all the negotiating, Dolans stood firm. At one point, he seemed to leave the meeting, saying his position was not going to change. But he decided to stay at the table. And when Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sifiboy and colleague Frank Thomas of the Mi'kmaq Wierion Society called for a truce before the violence worsened, he reluctantly agreed to ask his people to stop fishing. "It will," he told the chiefs. "It's a hard sell."

If not downright impossible, by week's end, the agreement seemed on the verge of collapse and Dhalwail was considering a moratorium on the entire fishery. Native in Burnt Church, where the fishing dispute has resulted in threats, violence and destruction of both native and non-native property, were in no mood for compromise. They stopped fishing long enough to tell Dolans that, regardless of what the grand chief had agreed to, they would continue to stay out on the water. Fishermen from other East Coast bands also threatened to defy the moratorium to dislodge non-natives, angry that such a deal might keep them from seeing their traps when the winter lobster season is scheduled to open this week. However, high winds and bad weather on Saturday, the moratorium's first

day, kept all but a handful of fishermen ashore.

Meanwhile, critics lashed out at Ottawa, saying the federal government had been woefully unprepared for the Sept. 17 Supreme Court of Canada ruling that East Coast natives had year-round fishing rights. The impact of that decision also spread to British Columbia, where some bands said the ruling applied, as well, to their salmon-fishing rights. At the same time, federal officials contemplated an escalating array of potential further flare-ups in aboriginal affairs. The common denominator: a growing crisis notion, largely led by the Reform party, to alleged special rights being won or claimed by native groups. Soon after this week's return of Parliament, the Christie government is expected to table a bill to ratify the controversial land-claim deal with British Columbia's Nisga'a Nation. Critics insist the agreement is not costly—about \$190 million over 15 years to an aboriginal group numbering about 5,000. In Alberta, the Treaty 8 agreement has launched a legal challenge to the Federal Court of Canada, claiming they are exempt from paying taxes even when they buy off reserves (the Canadian Taxpayers Federation is seeking intervenor status in the case, arguing that "all Canadians should be treated equally under the law"). And the Kikwasukuk Mohawks Nation, 30 km south of Montreal, has announced plans to license an Internet gambling operation on its reserve, a move that raises questions about the application of gaming and tax laws on reserves.

For now, though, the lobster war is the centre of attention. Both natives and non-natives have suffered in the dispute. Last week, two traps owned by white fishermen were trashed on a dock in Burnt Church, another also set a summer cottage owned by a non-native family ablaze. And for the Mi'kmaq, each day seems to have brought a new outrage. At week's end, the RCMP had still not made any arrests after a flood of angry white fishermen took to the water on Oct. 3 in Miramichi Bay to seek the lives of an estimated 3,500 lobster pots placed by aboriginals. On the same day, about 100 non-natives stormed three local processing plants suspected of buying lobsters from aboriginals. In addition, a second native ceremonial house was burned to the ground (at Burnt Church—where



three Mi'kmaq men ended up in hospital after their truck was rammed by a vehicle driven by non-natives. Across the Bay of Fundy, in Yarmouth, N.S., a lobster boat owned by a non-native native was sunk.

Non-native lobster fishermen argue that their real concern is conservation—and that the Supreme Court decision would ruin their industry by giving year-round access to hundreds of new fishermen. "No one should be fishing out of season," argued Don Cunningham, president of the West Nova Fishermen's Coalition, which represents about 250 fishermen in the Yarmouth area. "There must be some resource can be fished all year and stand it," Mi'kmaq leaders say that about 2,000 native fishermen may ultimately want to exercise their year-round rights. But as of last week, they estimated that the entire native lobster fishing fleet consisted of just 217 boats.

Natives have their own explanation for all the bitterness being directed their way. They say the feud is partly about greed: non-native fishermen want to break competition in an industry where it is possible to net \$100,000 a year for just a few months' work. That naturally evokes bitterness in Mi'kmaq communities overwhelmed by high unemployment rates. But some natives suspect that the nasty dispute has little to do with fishing. "It is hard to believe this is not about money," Lawrence Paul, chairman of the Assembly of New Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, said last week.

Natives are not used to having the upper hand in Atlantic Canada. European settlers in Newfoundland laid siege to the Beothuk Indians. In the mid-1790s, Edward Cornwallis, Halifax's English founder, put a price on Mi'kmaq scalps—setting the stage for a confrontation some 250 years later, when native leaders objected to a plan by Halifax Mayor Wilfred Fradette to honour Cornwallis during celebrations marking the anniversary of the city's birth earlier this year. Complaints about inequality still abound, with natives saying that the 1980 commission of inquiry that followed Donald Marshall Jr.'s 11 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit has resulted in few substantive changes in the Nova Scotia justice system.

Racial tension has been on display during the lobster dispute. A native religious building burned to the ground. White fishermen have spewed sensitive venom at public meetings. A non-native, dressed in a long, dark-haired wig, performed a mock "war dance" on the deck of a fishing boat while TV cameras rolled. "History is not going to look kindly on how natives were treated in the episode," says Sidney Robinson, a retired political science professor from the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. Even with the backing of the higher court in the land, it seems East Coast natives must always fight an uphill battle.

With John Golden in Ottawa

Scenes from Burnt Church: charges of racism from some aboriginal leaders



Dhalwail firing independent criticism over Ottawa's handling of a court decision giving natives year-round fishing



The new Governor General and her suite leave Parliament Hill. Clarkson embracing her father: reminders of an immigrant family's remarkable story



Canada

## A Canadian dream

In a ceremony brimming with pageantry and pomp, former broadcaster Adrienne Clarkson became the country's 26th Governor General—and vowed to inject the old role with new energy. Her first 91-year-old father, William Poy, enjoyed a ring-side seat for the three-hour investiture on Parliament Hill. His very presence was a reminder of the family's remarkable story: four refugees escaping a crowded Hong Kong in 1942 to the prairie, with a graceful daughter scaling the socio-political heights and capturing the hearts of many Canadians in the guise of a personae.

Clarkson does not shy away from her immigrant roots. Far from it. But if last Thursday's ceremony was a sign, this is a Governor General who appears determined to be known for more than the mythology of her family story. "I ask you to embark on a journey with me," Clarkson told Canadians in her nationally televised speech. Imagine, she said, "the psychic possibilities" of being Canadian, when "to be complex does not mean to be fragmented." She described a Canada that is a work in progress, built initially on the three-legged stool of French, English and aboriginal cultures and now expanded to include all colors and religions with immigrant parents like her own, "detaching their children into being Canadians."

With Prime Minister Jean Chrétien looking on, also with the air of a proud father, Clarkson served notice she will be using her largely ceremonial office as something of a platform to further the cause of women, the arts, minority rights and the



Dance performers in the Hall of History; Canada as 'a work in progress'

environment. She and her newly married husband, longtime companion and philosopher John Burt Foster—she married on July 31—are planning to hold public receptions in every province and territory. Canadians will have to contend with some potent specifying, she said that appears to drive offensively on the words of everyone from Samuel de Champlain to Farley Mowat and even expatriate poet Leonard Cohen, whom Clarkson quoted briefly last week. "There is a crack in everything—that's how the light gets in."



Working intentions at the investiture in the Senate chamber: Clarkson on a journey with Poy

# An airing of the dirty linen

By Bruce Wallace in Mont-Tremblant

It doesn't take much to put the spring back into a Quebec separatist's step these days. Their grand project—a much-to-wish independence from Canada, or at least a new partnership of equals with the rest of the country—has bogged down. But show them just weeks in the south. Laurentia's most recent of Mont-Tremblant, where 600 academics, businessmen and politicians from around the world, including U.S. President Bill Clinton, gathered at Ottawa's behest for the first International Conference on Federalism. Despite the week's ramble of a conference—with such workshop topics as "Regional Economic Development: Building Partnerships or New Dependencies"—the separatists thought they had what they wanted: a sparring match over national unity.

Led by Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard, who delivered a blistering attack on Canada during a pre-dinner introduction on opening night, separatist politicians used every open microphone for a guerrilla attack on the Canadian version of federalism. The Quebec Question overwhelmed the conference. It amazed some foreign delegates, confused or bored others. But it clearly irritated Ottawa officials who wished what was supposed to be a showcase for federalism around the globe got hijacked by intra-Canadian governmentship. Joseph Facal, the Parti Québécois' intergovernmental affairs minister, used a panel discussion to tell Ottawa to butt out of the rules on any future referendum. Bouchard demanded and received a private audience with Clinton, a 20-minute chat that the Americans deemed a courtesy call and the premier



Bouchard: Clinton and Clinton as the bulls (opposite) a strategic error on Ottawa's part

Lucien Bouchard went on the attack against federalism at an international conference in Quebec, but Bill Clinton put him in his place

described as a "historic moment for Quebec." Getting national unity back into the spotlight for however brief a flurry seemed to give the separatists heart. "We showed our strength here," crowed Bloc Québécois MP Daniel Tardif, glorying in the rare barrage of compliments and courtesy thrust his way.

Most media commentators agreed, Ottawa's decision to give the PQ a platform to attack Canadian federalism was deemed a strategic error equivalent to inviting Russia in winter—an opinion that reflects the media obsession with symbols over substance. No one, for example, bothered to point the PQ or Bloc members on how an independent Quebec would answer the pointed concern by Nigerian writer and Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka that "the great violations of human rights are occurring in unitary states." Instead, the Canadian media worked themselves into a minor tizzy when George Reid, a member of the independence-minded Scottish National Party (which is not even in power in Scotland), speculated that 50 per cent plus one in a referendum was enough of a mandate for Scotland to separate from Great Britain. Reid's concurrence with PQ orthodoxy got him a day of headlines. Much-maligned federalism, on the other hand, had to rely on arguments from the U.S. President.

Clinton did not disappoint. In a sparkling, free-flowing discussion on the history and promise of federalism, he warned that "when a people thinks it should be independent in order to have a meaningful political existence, serious questions should be asked." Clinton's laissez-faire was high. "Is there an abuse of human rights?" he asked. "Are minority rights as well as majority rights respected? How are we going to co-operate with our neighbours?" After a courtesy lunch with the bloody fallout from the cry for national self-determination around the globe, Clinton said

federalism offered "the best of all worlds" to peoples seeking recognition of their identity, without having to isolate themselves. Bouchard later conceded parts of Clinton's address were "not very helpful" to the PQ cause.

The premier's own speech to the conference will probably make the PQ's year-end highlight reel for its audacious parading of Ottawa in front of an international audience. But as connoisseurs were nothing more than Bouchard's pointed references to historical dignities against Quebec and his usual rhetorical arrows. "The Canadian federal system is now engaged in a concerted strategy of trivializing Quebec," he declared. His speech contained glaring gaps in logic—offering no explanation as to how Quebec was flourishing "as a modern society, pluralist in its culture, open to immigration, the world's 16th economic power," while simultaneously being kept trapped by "federalism and its historical overtones." And there were huge historical oversights, such as his praise for the "remarkable success" of the U.S. experience with federalism, kindly omitting its four-year Civil War (which killed more Americans than the First and Second World Wars combined). Yet the premier accused Ottawa of behaving "treasonously" in curbing social transfers to the provinces, and warned that Jean Charest's Liberal government has "chosen to push to offensive further."

The premier's referendum-style stump speech may have been old hat, but his government did make a significant policy pronouncement last week. On the eve of the conference, Facal called the *National Post* to let it be known the Quebec government no longer felt bound to follow the Supreme Court interpretation of the legality of secession. The coast and last year that Ottawa and the other nine provinces were obliged to negotiate new constitutional terms with Quebec, provided the provincial government had

won a referendum with a clear majority on a clear question. The PQ originally embraced the ruling, using the requirement to negotiate a referendum for the first of Quebecers worried that a vote for independence would sever ties to Canada.

But the challenge of coming up with an unambiguous question that could carry a majority was problematic for the PQ. With Charest preparing to set out Ottawa's own version of clarity, Facal declared Quebec would not be bound by the finding of a court whose judges were appointed by Ottawa. "All rules governing the next referendum will be determined by the national assembly of Quebec," he said, while also warning Quebec could declare independence anytime after a Yes vote in a referendum. And he suggested the next question may not be any more straightforward than the last one in 1995, when nearly one-third of its voters later revealed to pollsters they thought Quebec would still be a province of Canada even if the Yes side won.

Despite the PQ's back bit words, the party is not prepared to drop the country into another unity debate just yet. A closed-door meeting with a U.S. president is hardly enough to swindle the PQ's bluffing cause. What does seem to be remembered more from last week's conference was the presence of delegates from far more troubled lands than Canada, addressing the belief that federalism often offers hope to a world that cannot afford to divide itself into ever smaller ethnic, religious and linguistic enclaves. As Clinton put it in his follow-up conclusion: "If we keep in mind what is the assignment of governments most likely to give as the self-government we need, the self-advancement we need, without precluding we can cut all the cords that bind us to the rest of humanity, I think more and more and more people will say, you know, this federalism, it's not such a bad idea." ■



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CANADIAN PULP AND PAPER ASSOCIATION



## Not enough evidence

RCMP investigators in Alberta admitted last week they do not yet have enough evidence to lay charges in the June death of Karman Willis, 16, who died after being shot while joyriding with friends on the property of environmental activist Wido Ludwig. Unrepentant, Ludwig warned of further violence if he continues to be harassed. In Calgary, meanwhile, officials of the Social Credit party announced that Ludwig intends to run for the party leadership despite the fact he is facing charges of illegal vandalism. The party will elect a leader on Nov. 6.

## Oliveri goes to Ottawa

Dr. Nancy Oliveri, the head of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children's blood diseases program, appeared before a Health Canada board to present her findings that deferoxamine, a controversial drug that is supposed to offset the effects of the blood disorder thalassemia, is unsafe. Oliveri briefly lost her job in 1996 after warning patients about deferoxamine, while Apotex Inc. of Toronto, which manufactures the drug and funded Oliveri's study, insists it is safe. More than a dozen U.S. and British scientists have written to Ottawa to support her. The drug has been approved in Europe.

## Murders are down

The national homicide rate has dropped to its lowest level in 30 years, Statistics Canada reported. There were 555 murders last year, down 31 from the previous year, for a 1998 rate of 1.63 killings per 100,000 people. That is less than a third of the U.S. rate, but higher than most European countries.

## Suing over Anne

Three descendants of Lucy Maud Montgomery are suing over the company that created the acclaimed 1980s TV series based on *Anne of Green Gables*. Sullivan Entertainment says it was misled by the defendants' claims that they have not been paid royalties, and that the mansion located the company to cancel plans for an initial public offering on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Sullivan says it owes no royalties because none of the programs reported a profit.



## Grief in a northern community

Residents of Moose Factory, Ont., on the southern tip of James Bay, mourn the deaths of Kenneth Echorn, 57, his nine-year-old son and an uncle. His wife Anna, 54, two other children, a niece and a barely blind sister were presumed dead after a fence store swamped their house during a goose-hunting trip.

## 'I have ruined your lives'

The sentencing hearing continued for five B.C. slushers who pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the Jan. 4, 1998, beating death of the elderly cousin of a Surrey Sikh temple. One defendant, Daniel Miloszenko, 22, told the court he was "totally ashamed of my behaviour." Apologizing to the family of Nermal Singh Gill, 65, he said, "I have changed and ruined your lives forever—that hurts me."

The Crown is seeking life sentences for the five. But according to Miloszenko's lawyer, John Conroy, the defendants were not looking for a victim on the night of Gill's death, which occurred after the five had been drinking heavily. Conroy, who is asking for a sentence of two years in addition to the 1½ years Miloszenko has been held, said his client has remorseful nature. But in the case of co-defendant Nathan LeBlanc, the court heard last week that he had written to John William King of Jupiter, Tex.—now facing the death penalty for the fatal June 7 dragging death of a black man—saying King "should have been given a medal." The hearing is expected to conclude this week.

## An uproar over red-hot lists

Clients of a Toronto sex escort agency will not have their names made public in the trial of agency manager Mark Lukaczko, who is charged with 16 counts of living off the sexual prostitution. Ontario Superior Court Justice Henry Kavanagh ruled last week that the names were irrelevant—erotic bias. Interest in the list grew from unsubstantiated reports that NHL players' names appeared on it—and testimony that three officers may have been HIV-positive.



Greenpeace activists spray a crop of soybeans near Norwich, England, to July global battle

supermarket shelves, where GM foods are increasingly rare, to Indian cotton fields, where outraged peasants have torches crops mistakenly believed to have been genetically altered. The 15 nations of the European Union are implementing regulations calling for the labelling of all products with even a trace of GM ingredients. Last summer, Japan's two leading brewers, Asahi and Kirin, announced they would stop using genetically modified corn by the year 2000. Monsanto itself pledged, shortly before Shapiro's earlier debate, that it would not market controversial "terminator" crop seeds that in future could produce infertile, one-season-only plants. "The message is sorry," said Germany's Deutschebank in a recent report on genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, prepared for the Berlin's diet. "GMOs increasingly are, in our opinion, becoming a liability to farmers. We predict that GMOs, once perceived as the driver of the [market] case for this sector, will now be perceived as a peril."

That process is already well under way in both the United States and Canada, where a two-tier market for grains is fast developing. Increasingly, genetically "improved" crops are trading at steep discounts, while European processors have been willing to pay premiums of as much as \$1.50 a bushel for non-GM crops. In September, the huge U.S. grain processing corporation, Archer-Daniels-Midland, advised American grain farmers to begin segregating GM and non-GM

crops, making it virtually unusable in Europe. If the trends continue, a similar fate may await future Canadian crops in the country's three other major markets for Canada seed—the United States, Japan and Mexico, all of which are also experiencing nagging doubts about GM products.

**The problem** is so much about public perception as it is about science. In Europe, the anti-GM battle has been waged against the backdrop of a series of European food scares that began with BSE, or "mad cow" disease, in Britain and has escalated with scandals over cardenogenic dioxin in Belgian poultry and dairy products and the use in France and elsewhere of sewage slurry in animal feeds. The aggressive stance of U.S.-based agribusiness giants has not helped. The U.S. government, responding to pressure from the powerful agribusiness lobby in Washington, has taken the Europeans to court at the World Trade Organization, warring successive decisions against Europe's restrictions on Carlisle's bananas and growth hormone additives in beef. The Americans have dismissed similar challenges to European resistance to the free import of genetically engineered grains.

The combined effect has been to shatter European confidence in what they are eating and drinking as well as fuelling deep resentment about the unrestrained power of U.S. multinational corporations. "There has been an un-

precedented, permanent and irreversible shift in the political landscape," Greenpeace's Lord Melchett told Shapiro last week. "People are increasingly aware and mistrustful of the combination of big science and big business."

Even the normally apolitical Prince Charles has entered the debate. The much-maligned heir to the British throne gave a major boost to the campaign in June with a fierce attack on the safety of GM crops, evidently sparked by Prime Minister Tony Blair's contemptuous dismissal of the "cynicalists" leading the GM opposition. The Prince, who operates his own lucrative organic farming business, posed what he termed 10 unanswered questions in a widely disseminated newspaper article. "What I believe the public's reaction shows," wrote Charles, "is that instinctively we are nervous about tampering with nature when we can't be sure that we know enough of the consequences."

The Prince's concerns are shared by many. It is no accident, for example, that in his first major address to the European parliament last week, the newly elected president of the European Commission, Italy's Romano Prodi, singled out food safety as the top priority of his infant administration. He proposed a pan-European food agency to deal with issues such as those involving BSE and BSE, Belgian chickens and U.S. genetic modifications. "We have to provide answers," he said, "to those who are wondering if official information can be trusted these days, or if it is all being manipulated for economic and political purposes?" On farms across the globe, the answer may be blowing in the wind. ■



Canada faces big losses as consumers reject genetically modified crops

U.S. researcher works on genetically altered plants: a problem of perception

crops. At the same time, the two main U.S. baby food manufacturers, Gerber Products Co. and H. J. Heinz Co., declared they would no longer use genetically modified corn or soybeans in any of their products.

Canada's canola farmers have been hit hard by the trend. In 1994, Canadian exports to the European Union of canola seed, destined for crushing into oil, peaked at \$425 million. "Now there's a gap," says Ian Thornton, agricultural councillor at the Canadian High Commission in London. "What's happened is that we have completely lost a market that was worth close to half a billion dollars annually in good years." Part of the problem lies in the farming techniques of canola producers in Canada, where between 60 and 70 per cent of the annual crop is genetically engineered to render it

poor. For it marked a significant victory for the country's ecological warriors, the first high-profile acknowledgment that the world's bioethic industry, based largely in the United States, is losing the global battle to convince the public of the benefits of genetic engineering. Instead, consumers are increasingly fearful that there could be unknown side-effects. "We have terrified and outraged more people than we have persuaded," Shapiro admitted in his London audience. "Our confidence in biotechnology has been widely seen as arrogant and condescending. Too often we forget to listen."

The result has been a spending public rejection of what is known in Europe as GM—genetically modified—foods and elsewhere often as GE—genetically engineered—products. The implications for North American farmers are huge—Canada and the United States are becoming the only markets where GM foods can readily be sold, and that may not last. Anti-GM activists have already launched a campaign to rally Canadian consumers (page 48).

The evidence of the turnaround is everywhere, from British

By Barry Carr in London

**In keeping with** the message, the media was suitably high-tech: a mass media encounter conducted live by television satellite. Up on the giant screen in the London conference hall, Robert Shapiro, chief executive officer of the Monsanto Co., looked passively at the American biotechnology conglomerate he heads was raised over the coals by Peter Melchett, the British activist who is executive director of the environmental organization Greenpeace in Britain. Lord Melchett accused Monsanto of "bullying" an over-motivated public into reluctant acceptance of a wide range of genetically modified foods, everything from soybeans to corn to Canadian canola oil. Shapiro's response, however, was not quite what his come to be expected from the host of the most aggressive bioethic firm on the planet. "If I'm a bully," he casually noted, "then I'm not a very successful bully."

The candid remark drew murmurs of satisfaction from the gathering of environmental activists, organized by Green-





# The grisly realm of 'Dr. Death'

Two ex-associates in Canada prepare to testify

At O'Grady's Restaurant in downtown North Battleford, the name "Dr. Death" is whispered repeatedly over coffee. Jacobus Bothma, a former South African military doctor, has worked as an orthopedic surgeon in the central Saskatchewan city since 1994. But last week, court documents filed in Pretoria drew grimy links between Bothma and Winona Basson, the issue nicknamed



Basson (above): Bothma exposed the tactics used to shore up apartheid

Dr. Death. Often compared to the Nazi Joseph Mengele, Basson masterminded a germ-and-chemical warfare campaign against blacks in apartheid-era South Africa and neighbouring areas. As part of an experiment, Saskatchewan's Bothma allegedly spread a deadly substance on three prisoners. When the chemicals failed to work, the three were executed by the squad. Now, Bothma has agreed to testify against his former boss. All this leaves safe owner Dale O'Grady incalculable. "What is a guy like that," he wonders, "doing here?"

As Dr. Death's sensational murder trial began, prosecutors outside Pretoria's high court waved placards denouncing his evil work. Inside, the horrendous charges were read into the record, but Basson, dressed in a grey suit, showed little emotion. The massive 274-page indictment outlines 67 charges against him, including 16 counts of murder, conspiracy to commit murder, drug trafficking and fraud stemming from the misuse of government funds. Nearly 250 witnesses are expected to be called in the trial, which could take up to three years to complete. "This trial will be of

vital importance," said Vinodh Jothand of the Johannesburg-based group Lawyers for Human Rights. "The revelations will shock by exposing the tactics used to shore up apartheid."

In addition to North Battleford's Bothma, two other former South Africans living in Canada, Deon and Annette Erasmus of Pretoria, Alta., worked with Basson. Prosecutors say Annette Erasmus, who, like her husband, has landed immigrant status in Canada, will be called to testify. Although she has said she was simply a librarian for one of Basson's front companies, she has admitted the vacationed in his \$500,000 hideaway in Ascot, England, purchased with state funds. It was there that some of Basson's secret operations, code-named Project Coeur, were conducted. Her husband, Deon, who is a general practitioner in Pretoria, was a member of 7 Medical Battalion, the covert South African Defence Force unit from which members of Project Coeur were drawn. He has denied any knowledge of Basson's illicit work and is not expected to testify.

The may of Project Coeur, which in-



Basson (above): Bothma exposed the tactics used to shore up apartheid

folded in testimony before South Africa's now-completed Truth and Reconciliation Commission in an investigation of apartheid-era crimes, borders on spy fiction. Not only did Basson learn to develop vast quantities of killer cholera, anthrax and botulinum viruses, they also attempted to develop a chemical that would sterilize black women and another that would kill only blacks. Other toxins, designed to be delivered with poison-tipped darts and snowed over, could kill without leaving a trace. Basson even set up companies to produce cigarettes laced with anthrax, poisonous chocolate and sugar containing ultrasonic. Under one plan that was never carried out, the imprisoned Nelson Mandela, later president, was to be poisoned to the point of losing his mental capacity.

Basson is also accused of conspiracy to murder nearly 200 guerrillas in neighboring Namibia who were allegedly infected with an overdose of a muscle relaxant. They died horribly when their lungs collapsed, and their bodies were later dumped in the sea. However, because the deaths took place outside South Africa, the court is still considering whether to proceed with the charges. Basson is also accused of misappropriating government funds to finance his murderous operation, and of hiring cash through drug trafficking.

According to the indictment, Bothma was drawn into this madman in 1983, while he was working at Pretoria's 1 Military Hospital. Basson allegedly told Bothma he had been ordered to kill "certain people" and carry out ex-

DEPARTURES

| UOL | DESTINATION | STATUS           |
|-----|-------------|------------------|
| 402 | VANCOUVER   | DELAYED/RETARDE  |
| 425 | TORONTO     | DELAYED/RETARDE  |
| 446 | TORONTO     | DELAYED/RETARDE  |
| 431 | MONTREAL    | CANCELLED/ANNULE |
| 415 | VANCOUVER   | DELAYED/RETARDE  |
| 413 | VANCOUVER   | CANCELLED/ANNULE |
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## World

poisoning on them before they died. Subsequently, those victims were laid to rest in a common casket, and the document states that Borzusa answered their bodies with an answer. When the substance failed to kill, the indictment says, the men were injected with toxic substances, which caused them to suffocate. Borzusa initially refused to comment when approached by reporters last week, but he offered one insight into the mystery of white South Africa at the time. "It's a terrible thing for me to live through," he said. "People think you are evil. But they were the war years. Things happen."

Anonymous: Borzusa's testimony will also be watched closely. She worked as a liaison for Inland (Pty) Ltd., a Toronto-based company set up to funnel government money to Project Coast. She insists she never had intimate knowledge of Borzusa's work, but in the indictment she is named as a doctor in a web of military front companies used by Borzusa.

The indictment also lists her name as A. J. Lowman. Until the early 1990s, she was married to Jan Lowman, a key state witness who gave crucial testimony to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission last year. He said he handed two vials of toxin and five specially-constructed screwdrivers to special forces operatives at Borzusa's hideaway in Antioch. Lowman and they were to be used against anti-apartheid activists from Mandela's African National Congress.

Borzusa seems unrepentant about his operation. "This was an extensive project and very good work was done," he told investigators. But in North Bedford, each statement only complicates the puzzle surrounding Borzusa. The surgeon, who was granted a five-year permit to work until he passed his South African medical exams, has failed three times and must close his practice by January. Many people in the city think he was a fine doctor, but as O'Grady's, his association with Dr. Deth has cast a long, dark shadow.

Tom Penfold with Hugo Gibson  
in Johannesburg

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### Pinochet's fate

Human-rights activists celebrated after a British judge ruled that former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet could be extradited to Spain to face 35 torture and conspiracy charges arising from his iron-fisted regime. The ailing Pinochet, 83, remained under house arrest in London, while his lawyers were expected to file an appeal. A final decision on his fate is likely to take months.

### South Korean nuclear leak

Thirty-two workers were exposed to radiation after a leak of heavy water at a South Korean nuclear plant using a Canadian-designed Candu reactor. The leak was quickly stopped, but protesters drew parallels with neighbouring Japan's worst nuclear accident, which occurred five days earlier. There, the government expanded its probe of contamination from a uranium processing plant, fearing that more people were exposed than initially thought.

### Deadly Timor clash

Two Australian peacekeeping soldiers were wounded in a firefight with East Timorese militia in which two anti-independence fighters died. The clash took place during a sweep through a militia stronghold near the border with Indonesia's West Timor province.

### Austrian rightist win

The far-right Freedom party, which campaigned on an anti-immigration platform, won second place in Austrian elections, raising the possibility that it might sway the government coalition led by the Social Democrats. Freedom leader Jörg Haider has alarmed Jewish groups with past praise of Adolf Hitler's "decant employment policies".

### Trump weighs a run

Real-estate New York City developer Donald Trump set up a committee to explore running for the U.S. presidency in 2000 under the Reform Party banner. Trump, who has never held elective office, has gained support from ex-senator Jesse Ventura, the Reform governor of Minnesota, in a struggle with founder Ross Perot over the future of the fringe party.



Wrecked carriage, survivors at the scene (below): a driver missed a stop signal

## A horrific train disaster in London

The bodies of most of the victims of the worst British rail disaster in the past half-century may never be recovered. They were incinerated in a fierce diesel-fuel fireball when two rush-hour commuter trains collided outside London's Paddington Station. While more than 100 people were reported missing at the time of the crash, by the weekend investigators had only managed to find 30 bodies in the scorching and tangled wreckage.

Many other victims were travelling in a first-class carriage at the front of the Great Western express, which left Chiswick on time at 6:03 a.m. on Oct. 5, bound for Paddington. That carriage was speared with incandescent diesel fuel when the 8:06 Thames Train commuter service from Paddington to Epsom plowed into the express in the West London neighbourhood of Ladbroke Grove. It caught fire, engulfing the trapped passengers in flames intense enough to burn bone two feet ash.

Police are still not sure exactly how many died in the disaster. Aside from the 30 bodies recovered, up to 74 possible passengers were still counted as missing by week's end. Preliminary findings indicated that the driver of the Thames Train commuter, 31-year-old



Michael Hodder, missed a red stop signal and ran head-on into the Great Western express. At the time, the Thames train was travelling at 90 km/h, the express at 110 km/h, for a combined collision speed of 190 km/h. Hodder, a novice who qualified two months ago, died in the accident.

If the early sign point to the driver as prime culprit, however, neither the two train companies involved nor the private firm managing the track system are likely to escape close scrutiny once a public inquiry into the incident commences. Scarring Justice Lord Cullen, who previously investigated the 1996 Dublin massacre of 16 schoolchildren, will be looking closely at infamous signal 109 at Ladbroke Grove. Hodder was not the first to run it. It has been missed eight times in the past five years, so frequently that the track managers were in the process of improving the system.

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## World Notes



Displaced Chechen women after Russian attack, refugees

### Russian bombs rain down on Chechnya

Russia's air force stepped up its bombing campaign against Muslim rebels in Chechnya, solidifying its control over a buffer zone covering almost the top half of the breakaway republic. Moscow hopes the move will prevent further attacks by rebels against targets in Russia, but many analysts fear a repeat of Russia's 1994-1996 war in Chechnya, in which thousands of people died. Chechen President Adam Mashkadoev, who said Russian bombs had killed innocent civilians, asked NATO to help end the fighting. But Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov told visiting European Union foreign affairs commissioner Chris Patten that the Chechen issue is an internal Russian affair. The EU is concerned about the 100,000 refugees who fled to the neighboring region of Ingushetia.

### Indians vote for stability

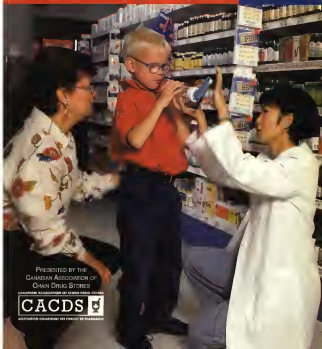
Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 24-party alliance won a clear majority in India's parliamentary elections. The result, the first re-election of an incumbent premier in 27 years, provides a chance for a stable government that can pursue economic reform and peace with Pakistan. The alliance, led by Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, won at least 297 of 537 seats. Voters gave the Congress party, led by Indian-born Sonia Gandhi, its worst election, evidently due to concerns about a foreign-born leader and the Congress role in bringing down the government.

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If you have been diagnosed with a chronic health condition, like asthma, diabetes, or heart disease, it may have come as a crushing blow. Many people feel as if their bodies have betrayed them. But such a diagnosis can simply be a wake-up call, rather than a sentence of ill health. With a little help, you should be able to manage your condition, and live a normal, healthy life.

Perhaps the most accessible health-care professional available to consult about controlling your health condition is your neighbourhood pharmacist. Why turn to a pharmacist? With at least four years of specialized university study,



pharmacists have a detailed understanding of the workings of the human body, as well as the use of drugs for disease prevention. They are often just around the corner and often available up to 24 hours a day. They are the experts in medication use, and in many cases you can consult them without even making an appointment.

According to a recent Canada Health Monitor survey, four in 10 Canadians with at least one chronic condition (including high blood pressure, arthritis, heart trouble, asthma/emphysema/chronic bronchitis, diabetes and cancer) reported that their pharmacist was "very involved" in advising them on their medications and health-care equipment or devices, and a total of 66 per cent reported their pharmacist was "very" or "somewhat" involved.

### Helping Patients Get a Handle on Chronic Diseases

That involvement goes far beyond a quick chat when patients pick up medications. Pharmacists across the country make a special effort to offer their patients counselling, programs and information to help them stay in control of their health conditions. What to know about diabetes, asthma and hypertension, among other conditions? There is an expert at your neighbourhood drug store.

Pharmacists also assist with medical developments concerning chronic diseases through their own reading, and through seminars and special study courses available at many of the drug store chains. At Jean Coutu Group in Quebec, pharmacists can attend night conferences training conferences a year. Those who cannot make it, can study at home. As well, the company subscribes to Montreal's Saint-Coeur Hospital's Pharmaceutical Information Centre hot line, which can answer any questions they cannot

immediately respond to themselves. At Shoppers Drug Mart, pharmacists participate in self-study programs, including written information, along with videos and workshops. "We train our pharmacists so they can help with disease management every day," says Shoppers' vice-president of pharmacy marketing, Virginia Carica.

Special clinic days at pharmacy chains across the country provide detailed education for patients about managing various diseases. A recent day-long event at Pharmaplan stores in Ontario and Winnipeg, for example, focused on heart health, including cholesterol, blood pressure and nutrition. "We saw over 12,000 people," says vice-president of pharmacy, Art Ito.

Blood pressure machines have become a mainstay fixture at many drug stores all year round, so pharmacists seek to give patients the tools they need to continue to live a healthy life. "People may be concerned about their blood pressure because of a family history," says Ito, "but they may not get around to booking an appointment



with their doctor to check it. We give them the opportunity to come in and get screened without too much trouble 365 days a year."

Frequently pharmacists also head out themselves, by phone and even visit to patients looking for information about a particular health condition. "This can only increase the patient's knowledge and control level during their visit to the pharmacy, but it's information that can be taken home with them afterwards," says Kevin Kowalski, Zelco/Boysen Pharmacy regional pharmacy manager. Just Hirsch, vice president of pharmacy for the IZA, Canadian, Rite Central and Community Drug Mart stores says, "Advances in technology helps us focus on patients' needs and to provide individualized services. Patients really appreciate it."

### Pay for Pharmacists' Minds, Not Their Product



Although pharmacists are already very involved in helping patients manage their health conditions, there is a movement afoot to reduce their role in caring for patients even further. "In the era of universal and change in the health-care system, many health-care professionals have stepped out of their traditional roles to take on the grime of new services," says Ellen Mary Mills, vice-president of policy and public affairs for the Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores. "Pharmacy is one such profession that is here day in, day out."

Recently a special panel dubbed The Federation Pharmacy Initiative was created

to reduce overall health-care costs and employee absenteeism. Landscaped in Fredericton and Oshawa, N.B., the project will track 203 government employees and their dependents who suffer from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or chronic heart failure. Throughout the year-long study patients will get detailed information about their prescriptions and their disease conditions. As well, pharmacists will provide suggestions for lifestyle changes that will make their patients feel better in the long run.

A consulting firm will follow up with patients at three, six, nine and twelve months to determine whether there is any drop in the number of work days lost to illness, and whether hospital visits have been cut back. Says Jeff Patton, president of the Canadian Pharmacists Association: "I think the monitoring services that pharmacists are beginning to provide are going to lead both to improvement in the individual patient's quality of life, and also cost savings in the health-care system."

A patient who suffers from just one disease condition - say asthma - can probably be given a basic education about their medication, asthma triggers and possible lifestyle changes in 15 minutes, points out Patton. But for an older person who is perhaps housebound and may have four or five diseases, it can take 45 minutes just to review their medications and how they are working. One of the challenges for the profession of pharmacy is deciding on a reimbursement policy that makes sense for both these scenarios.

While some pharmacy associations are discussing payment for such specialized services with governments and insurance companies who they hope will foot the bill, some pharmacists are already offering specialized counselling for which patients are happy to pay directly. Helene Desjard, a pharmacist-entrepreneur with Medical Pharmacists in Oshawa, Ont., is one of them.

Desjard's rapidly speaks to special interest groups about a variety of topics, from Multiple Sclerosis to menopause. As well, she offers detailed counselling sessions - the initial consultation for free, with a fee for any further sessions.

Says Richard Maynard of Jean Coutu Cosmetics: "Pharmacy is more than the distribution of medications. Our profession is alive and evolving rapidly, thanks to new information that pharmacists across the country."

## Breathing Lessons: Keeping Asthma in Check

Every year, about 500 Canadians die of asthma, a disease characterized by obstruction of bronchi, wheezing and coughing. Typically asthma is caused by inflammation in the bronchi (the large airway), which narrows the air passages and makes breathing difficult.

The condition often runs in families, but can also be triggered by respiratory viral infection, as well as dust, pollen, animal dander, air pollution, tobacco smoke, food or food additives, stress or colds. Dr. Kenneth Chapman, director of the Asthma Center of the University Health Network in Toronto, says "Asthma is incredibly treatable and controllable." Despite long asthma, Chapman cautions, should be extremely rare; in fact, "it's generally held that 90 per cent of asthma deaths are preventable."

The first step in managing asthma is recognizing and avoiding your triggers. Allergy skin tests can help and down the substances that are making you sick. "The classic is the cat at home," says Dr. Chapman. "Our survey indicated that half of the children with asthma were living with pets that they reported as being allergens to." Other triggers, such as dust mites by keeping the humidity level in your house low, remembering to shower every two weeks, getting rid of carpets and stuffed toys, and vacuuming the mattress and box spring, as a general plastic or vinyl cover.

Asthma drugs also provide an effective line of defense against dangerous asthma attacks. But Dr. Chapman cautions people to make sure the diagnosis of asthma is correct. Chapman also points out that many people with emphysema or chronic bronchitis are incorrectly diagnosed with asthma. If you are over the age of 45 or 50 and have been smoking for over 20 years, your breathing problems may well be emphysema.

### ASTHMA DRUGS: Attack the cause, not the symptom

In years past, asthma patients had no alternative but to treat the symptoms of asthma,

without being able to affect the cause. But there has been a revolution in asthma treatment. Now patients are able to treat the underlying inflammation, stopping frightening asthma spasms in the bud. Here is a guide to the two main types of asthma medications and what they do.

### Anti-Inflammatories (Preventers or Relievers)

A key component of modern asthma treatment, anti-inflammatories reduce the inflammation and excess mucus production that cause asthma symptoms. Anti-inflammatories can actually help to prevent the development of asthma symptoms. Although you may not feel the effects of the medication immediately, over the long-term these drugs can help you stay in control of your condition.

### Bronchodilators (Relievers)

These medications provide more immediate relief of asthma symptoms by quickly widening constricted airways and relaxing the muscles surrounding the bronchi, preventing bronchospasms. They should be used sparingly, though, since they do nothing to prevent long inflammation, leaving you open to further attacks of asthma.

### WHAT IS AN ASTHMA ACTION PLAN?

An asthma action plan is a detailed set of instructions compiled by a doctor and/or pharmacist, in conjunction with you, the patient, to give better control over asthma. It may specify:

- A) Potential triggers, and how they can be avoided
- B) What asthma medications should be taken and how often
- C) How to recognize the symptoms of a worsening asthma episode (including waking at night with symptoms, or for a child, changes in peak-flow meter readings)
- D) When to step up the frequency of doses
- E) When to add or change medications
- F) What to do in a worst situation



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## Take Heart:

Fight back against a silent killer

### SIGNS OF A HEART ATTACK

According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, only two out of every five Canadians over age 45 can name even a single sign of a heart attack. If you experience any of the following symptoms, call someone and get emergency help immediately.

- A) Chest pain. You may just experience some tightness or discomfort, or the pain may be crushing, burning or feel like heaviness and pressure in your chest.
- B) Pain in one or both arms, or your neck, shoulder or jaw.
- C) Shortness of breath.
- D) Nausea, vomiting or weakness.
- E) Nausea, sweating and/or dizziness.
- F) Extreme fatigue.

### UNDER PRESSURE



Why it's important to get your blood pressure checked

If you have never had high blood pressure in the past, Weingart advises, monitoring your blood pressure two or three times a year should be enough. If you have a tendency toward high blood pressure, try to once a month. Many pharmacies offer the free use of blood pressure machines.

Ischemic heart disease (IHD) is the number 1 killer of men and women in Canada today, accounting for about 23 per cent of deaths in Canada in 1995. According to Dr. Andrew Weingart, a cardiology professor and cardiologist at the University of Ottawa, IHD results from a build-up of plaque in the blood vessels that supply the heart muscle with oxygenated blood. Bits of plaque may also break off, forming blood clots in the heart's arteries.

The good news is, even if you have a history of heart disease in the family, you can reduce your own risk of developing the disease. "At least half of the cases of heart disease are related to lifestyle," says Dr. Weingart. The most important things you can do: get some exercise, check your blood pressure regularly and eat a heart-healthy diet. To that end, avoid saturated fats from animal products like meat and dairy, advises Dr. Weingart, and fill up on leafy vegetables and fruits.

### ARE YOU AT RISK OF HEART DISEASE?

Heart disease is a disease extent reduced and you cannot do much about your family genes. But genetics is only one of the risk factors and almost all of the others can be checked, if not eliminated, by a healthier lifestyle. Take the Heart and Stroke Foundation's risk factor quiz. And remember: If you check off just one box, you double your risk of a heart attack. But if you

check off two boxes, your risk is eight times higher and three boxes gives you an 11 times greater risk of heart attack.

### Risk Factor Quiz

(Check all that apply.)  
☐ Family history of heart disease (especially parents, sister or brother suffered a heart attack or required heart surgery before age 55).

- ☐ Smoking
- ☐ High blood pressure
- ☐ Elevated blood cholesterol level
- ☐ Inactive lifestyle
- ☐ Overweight
- ☐ Diabetes
- ☐ Feeling stressed

### STROKE SYMPTOMS? MOVE FAST

By reacting quickly to the warning signs of a stroke and getting medical help immediately, you can greatly improve the outcome. Here is what to look out for:

- Tightness or pressure in the chest, difficulty breathing or chest pain.
- Fever or elevated temperature.
- Sudden, unusual or severe headache.
- Fainting, numbness or weakness in face, arm or leg, especially on one side.
- Unusual vision or sudden falls.
- Speech is difficult or you may have trouble comprehending what others are saying.
- Nausea and vomiting.

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## BUTT OUT AND SAVE YOUR HEART



Smoking harms the heart and blood vessels. Not only does nicotine cause the heart to beat more quickly, increasing its demand for oxygen, but the carbon monoxide contained in tobacco smoke decreases the amount of oxygen in the blood, making the heart beat even faster. To add to the damage, smoking speeds the build-up of deposits on the inner lining of arteries, impairing blood flow.

Your heart beat quit. Within 72 hours your bronchial tubes will expand and your lung volume will increase. The risk of heart disease associated with smoking plummeted by half after one year of remaining smoke-free and to the same rate as someone who has never smoked in 10 to 15 years. Your pharmacist can provide detailed counseling on the selection and use of the newer smoking cessation aids.

"The diagnosis can be very positive. People can develop much better habits and get themselves healthier than before they discovered they had diabetes."

While some people with diabetes may



## Sweet News: Diabetes can be managed to minimize complications

One in 20 Canadians currently has diabetes. But what's really frightening, according to the Canadian Diabetes Association, is that some 750,000 of those people do not even know they have it. "Some people only discover they have diabetes when complications set in," warns Dr. Phil Headen, director of the West Edmonton Diabetes Clinic. "Up there much of the damage has been done."

Normally the food we eat is converted to glucose, which is then stored or used by our bodies with the help of the hormone insulin. But with people who have diabetes, something in the process goes wrong. In Type 1 diabetes - which generally attacks children after a bout of illness - the pancreas doesn't produce enough of insulin; they will die. In the case of Type 2 diabetes - also called adult-onset diabetes - the pancreas gives out slowly or the body's cells lose their sensitivity to insulin. This is the most common form of the disease, accounting for about 90 per cent of all cases. Finally, gestational diabetes develops in one in 20 pregnant women and usually disappears after the birth of a child. About 40 per cent of women who have had gestational diabetes will develop Type 2 diabetes later in life.

The complications of diabetes are nothing to sniff at. People with diabetes are three to five times more likely to develop heart disease. As well, diabetes is a leading

cause of blindness and kidney failure. In some cases, it can even lead to amputation. "The diagnosis can be very positive. People can develop much better habits and get themselves healthier than before they discovered they had diabetes."

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have to take medication. Lifestyle changes can go a long way toward minimizing complications. Fully 99 per cent of people with diabetes live on or more risk factors over which they have control, points out the Canadian Diabetes Association, including smoking, obesity and hypertension. Hardly someone else that patients get some exercise every day. Not only does it help control weight, he says, but "the exercise take up the glucose and become more sensitive to the action of insulin." Adopting a healthy diet is also a crucial weapon against diabetes.

### ARE YOU AT RISK?

- You are particularly at risk of adult onset or Type 2 diabetes if you are 45 or older, overweight and out of shape. In fact, 60 per cent of people with Type 2 diabetes are overweight.
- Having a relative who had diabetes increases your risk of developing the disease, and if you had gestational diabetes during pregnancy, had frequent miscarriages, delivered prematurely or gave birth to a child weighing nine-plus pounds, you are more prone to developing the disease.
- If you are of African, Hispanic or Aboriginal descent, you're more likely to develop diabetes. The rate of diabetes amongst First Nation Canadians, for example, is three to five times higher than for the rest of the population.

### DIET KEY IN CONTROLLING DIABETES

The Canadian Diabetes Association recommends a diet high in complex carbohydrates, fiber and fresh foods and low in fat. Here are some tips on how to break your diet to help control or ward off diabetes:

A) Spread food intake throughout the day, advises Headen of the West Edmonton Diabetes Clinic. "No more shopping breakfast and lunch and then pigging out at supper."

B) Boost fibre intake with plenty of raw and cooked vegetables, fruit and dried fruits, cereals and legumes.

C) Limit fat - which makes the action of insulin difficult - by choosing lean meats,

avoiding creamy sauces and gravy and opting for low-fat salad dressings and dairy products.

D) Want a snack? Try fruit wedges or vegetables with low-fat yogurt or dips, substituted and sweetened popcorn, a cheese sandwich, or cereal.

E) Keep alcohol intake to a minimum, recommends Headen. "No more than one or two a day." ■



PHARMACY

Good Health Centre

With today's consumers taking an even greater involvement in their personal health, Zellers Pharmacies are pleased to provide the Good Health Centre Program. With a focus on consumer education, Zellers Pharmacies provide detailed patient information on 24 different health conditions. This program can assist individuals in identifying warning signs of potential health conditions that require appropriate follow up by a

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- Irritability
- Weight loss
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- Cramping
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Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores

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## People

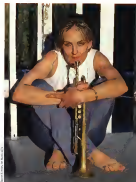
# Ace trumpeter

A Canadian trumpet player follows in her heroes' footsteps

Just minutes Ingrid Jensen is easily at home. The North Vancouver native has lived in New York City since 1994, but as one of the most sought-after solo trumpet players on the jazz scene, she is always travelling to clubs and festivals around the world. And the critical success of her just-released third CD, *Higher Grounds*, will likely increase the demand.

Jensen's mother, Karen Connors, a retired teacher, named Ingrid and her two sisters on jazz legends such as Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong, instead of watching television. "The absence of TV," says Jensen, 33, "drew us into music far faster." After high school, she studied at the acclaimed Berklee College of Music in Boston. Her big break occurred when, at 25, Jensen became the youngest female professor ever hired at the prestigious Berklee Conservatory in Linn, Austria.

Following in the footsteps of her heroes Woody Shaw and Miles Davis, Jensen improves her clear, clear horn lines and ear-splitting solos weekly. "Improvising is all about forgetting your skills and trusting the music," she says. "You don't know what's going to happen on stage and that's the beauty of it."



Jensen's third CD, *Higher Grounds*, is a critical success

## Remembering the Romanovs

Although Her Imperial Highness Olga Romanova, the last living child of a Russian czar, died in a tiny apartment over a Toronto beauty salon 39 years ago, the passage of time has made it no easier to write her biography. That was the first thing Toronto author Patricia Phoenix found out three years ago when she began *Olga Romanova: Russia's Last Grand Duchess*. Quarrelsome descendants and older Russian immigrants "passionate about preserving some pristine image of the Romanovs" were among those she encountered in Canada, she says. Phoenix ran into an especially difficult set of problems when she shifted her focus to Russia. Unable to visit the country because of the one—she frustrated the research with her earnings at a law clinic—she had to win cash for translations and other assistance she had never met. Not only



Phoenix's *Olga Romanova* is a critical success

did one \$1,500 payment disappear without a trace from the chronic Russian bookkeeper, but "I had to believe all the authors in Russia," she says ruefully.

But despite the obstacles, Phoenix described an extraordinary tale, one she calls "a Cinderella story in reverse." Born in 1882, the Grand Duchess Olga was in the Kremlin in 1918 when her brother Czar Nicholas II, and his aristocratic family were killed by Bolshevik revolutionaries. After a harrowing two-year journey, she made it safely out of Russia, first to Denmark and then, 30 years later, to Canada. The grand duchess and her family, husband Nikolai Nikitich and their sons, Tikhon and Gari, eventually settled in a modest house just west of Toronto. While Olga sold watercolors and oil paintings—"her value diminished primarily by their signature," Phoenix says—a friend bought her imperial heirlooms at society gatherings in Toronto's tonier neighbourhoods. "She used to go to parties with the jewels in a velvet cloth and tell them out," marvels Phoenix. "It was like a Rosalind Tipperware party."

# SprintCanada on hold

By Danylo Hawesleski

**William Earey**, the chief executive of Sprint Corp., was riding his horse—"in the middle of Gallopado in the middle of nowhere"—when he got a call on his satellite-linked phone from Bernard Ebbers, the Edmonson-born billionaire who heads MCI WorldCom Inc. Executives at the two U.S. telecommunications giants had been talking merger and Ebbers, a big man with a jolly manner, called Earey to see whether he could close the deal. At a news conference last week to announce the biggest corporate merger in history, Earey and Ebbers joked about the satellite phone's poor sound quality. "I thought he signed to a lot lower number than he did," said Ebbers.

And the stock, the pair came to terms on the \$170-billion union of Clinton, Miss.-based MCI WorldCom and Sprint of Greenwood, Mo., respectively the second- and third-largest long-distance carriers in the United States. The new company, to be known as WorldCom, will control 37 per cent of the U.S. long-distance market, second only to New York City-based AT&T Corp.'s 43 per cent. While the deal must clear regulatory hurdles, many industry analysts think it will go through. Ebbers had no choice but to make a deal like this one, says Clayton Hoot, a Toronto-based telecommunications expert. Today's big telecom firms are all jockeying to provide the world's 50,000 biggest corporations with a combination of local, long-distance, Internet, wireless and data services. "What they're chasing," says Hoot, "is 50,000 customers that equal to one quarter of the world's traffic."

At the Sprint board's Canadian counterpart, the future is a lot less certain. In fact, for Call-Ner Telecommunications Inc. of Toronto, the WorldCom deal could not have come at a worse time. Sprint in the United States owns 25 per cent of Call-Ner, which owns and operates Sprint Canada Inc. under a licensing agreement with the U.S. company. Because of the U.S. merger discussions, Sprint's talks on a new branding and technology agreement with Call-Ner were put off. The current deal, which allows the Canadian firm to use the brand name, expires in 2003.

There are complex questions about who will own and who will run the troubled Call-Ner, which is more than \$2 billion in debt. Last week, Bermuda's B.C. Telus Communications Inc. expressed interest in buying all or some of the firm. But Call-Ner's directors may not be anxious to explore that option; they are on the verge of losing their jobs. Had the brand talks with Sprint been completed, Call-Ner's management team could have trumpeted a deal at a pivotal shareholders' meeting in Toronto this Thursday. Concordia Partners LP of New York, which represents a disident group of shareholders, called the meeting with the express purpose

of voting in of nine Call-Ner directors, including CEO Jon Koor, and women to sell the company whole or in parts. Koor told *Maclean's* that he continues to believe in Sprint Canada's business plan, which includes the current launch of local phone service across the country. Koor also said negotiations on the use of the brand name should resume soon and that relations with Sprint are very good. "There is no reason," he says, "why those good relationships won't continue."

Call-Ner's problems began to escalate in June of last year, when the company bought Montreal-based Pionera Inc. for \$1.8 billion. Some analysts think Call-Ner paid far too much for Pionera, which had a national communications network and another in the United States. Analyst Ian Angus contends that Call-Ner also botched the integration of the firms by firing key Pionera executives before Call-Ner managers had a chance to learn the business. Things got worse when, a month later, Sprint Canada launched the first nationwide flat-rate long-distance plan. Customer response overwhelmed the company's equipment and forced Call-Ner to cap calls at 800 minutes a month for \$30. With arch-rival Bell Canada and other competitors matching those bargain-basement rates, profit margins were crushed.

The fiscal year ended with Call-Ner posting a 1998 loss of \$236.7 million, followed by 1999 quarterly losses of \$65.7 million and \$125 million. Between Aug. 3, 1998, and Aug. 3 this year, the price of its voting shares slid from \$23.10 to just \$7.35, a loss of almost 70 per cent. Last week, the stock closed at \$9.66, amid speculation of an imminent sale.

In the thick of Call-Ner's battle for survival is Concordia, the Paris Avenue value-added fund headed by arbitrage speculator Eric Rosenfield. Last June, he began buying company shares

and by mid-September, having paid an average of about \$10 a share, held about 10 per cent of Call-Ner's voting stock. That made Rosenfield Concordia to call this week's shareholder vote—and Rosenfield says he has majority support to oust out most of the current managers and replace them with a new team, including former Rogers Communications Inc. executive Colin Wilson as chairman. "If you look at the consolidation in the industry," you see that there are companies far larger than Call-Ner—Sprint in the U.S. is a good example—that feel they need to be part of another company."

Rosenfield, who last May successfully gained of Spar Aerospace Ltd.'s board and is looking to dismantle that company, was also the one to reveal that B.C. Telus is interested in buying part or all of Call-Ner. Call-Ner chairman Lawrence Tapp said in a statement that the company was willing to discuss B.C. Telus's proposal before the shareholders' meeting. Mocking the voters, though, was his letter to shareholders that said: "Simply put, this is not the right time to sell." For its part, one of Call-Ner's many concerns is that Rosenfield—having bought at a low price—would suffer for a loss less than the firm is worth. Some analysts agree, and Hoot advises investors to hang on to the stock to see whether WorldCom injects some capital into Call-Ner.

**The Institutional Shareholder Services**, a voting advisory service in Canada, last week recommended that institutional investors, mutual fund managers and other shareholders vote against Concordia's proposal. Sprint Corp. also threw its support behind Call-Ner's management. "That's an important statement," says Angus. "It could mean that if the company is sold the support of Sprint wouldn't go with it."

That would make the company worth much less in the marketplace.

Call-Ner is in a position where it either has to make a rushed deal with a willing B.C. Telus or gain enough shareholder support to win the vote at this week's meeting. If Concordia carries the day, Rosenfield will sell. How much he would get for Call-Ner, however, will depend on whether he can persuade Sprint to continue its branding agreement. At the news conference to announce the WorldCom deal, Ebbers said he values the Sprint and MCI brands, but added: "We haven't had a lot of time to talk with our marketing departments about how to deploy or use those names effectively." Until several questions are answered, Call-Ner's future remains on hold. ■

## Business

As the long-distance brand celebrates a mega-merger in the United States, executives at its counterpart in Canada fight to keep their jobs alive





*Belong to a flight  
at Montreal's Dorval  
airport: 'Invited'  
job pledge*

## A new bid on the tarmac?

Air Canada talks up a proposal with its partners, while the big banks choose sides in the airline war

By Kimberley Noble

For almost 24 hours, it looked like this might be the bid everyone had been waiting for. On Oct. 3, a Chicago newspaper reported that Air Canada's U.S. and German marketing partners were on the verge of announcing an offer to buy part of the Montreal-based air carrier. UAL Corp., owner of United Airlines and Deutsche Lufthansa AG were in talks with Air Canada. The report said they planned to team up with the Bank of Montreal to acquire a 35-per-cent stake, and that the move could be made public as early as Monday evening. Initially, it looked as if Air Canada and the Star Alliance partnership would give up. Canadian Airlines International Ltd. of Calgary and its would-

be founders a run for their money.

Then, square Monday morning dawned without a concrete counteroffer. It turned out there would be no announcement last week. Instead, Air Canada officials made vague statements about talks with "several third parties." Air Canada president and chief executive Robert Millon finished the week still vowing to unveil a counterproposal that will stop Toronto-based Oze's Corp.'s offer to merge it and Canadian. This new bid, Millon said, would not violate restrictions on foreign and individual ownership of Air Canada.

How Air Canada would pull that off, no one seems to know. "We had no success in ascertaining what they're planning to do," says Ross Healy of Toronto-based Strategic Analysis Corp. "But

then, I'm not sure that they have either." Last week's conversations mean that either Air Canada's management has something dualing to unveil and is waiting to pull the rug out from under Oze's president Gerry Schwartz, or that it is stalling in the hope that something will materialize before its shareholders vote on the Oze's merger offer at a Nov. 8 meeting.

Schwartz did some of his own nag-pulling late in the week, attaching "invited" commitments on jobs, regional services and ticket prices to Oze's proposal. He promised the federal government that a merged airline would limit price increases for five years to the rate of inflation and uncontrollable costs (such as fuel, insurance service to small communities for the same length of time; see layout only as a final move; and continue to hold seat sales and honor frequent-flyer points.

This is what Oze's has been waiting to hear. But what about shareholders? The so-called phantom Air Canada of-

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for provides a glimpse of how the airline battle is dividing the Canadian investment community. By now, just about every significant financial or legal firm is involved, either working for Olex or Air Canada—or inadvertently for both. Heading towards a potential showdown are two financial powerhouses—the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal. The intriguing dynamic is that these two wanted to unite and create a mammoth Canadian bank in last year's hotly contested, and ultimately unsuccessful, bank merger debate.

Until last week, the Royal Bank was the most closely scrutinized of the major financial players in the airline debate—because it is the biggest domestic commercial leader to cash-strapped Canadian. The Royal has a lot to lose if the airline goes belly-up. The exact amount of its exposure is confidential, but it is said to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

The banks came under fire in early September over a potential conflict when Royal Bank Investment Management Inc. the arm that handles private money management including mutual funds, joined Olex in asking its Ontario court to move the date of the Air Canada shareholder meeting to November from January. But RBC's officials insist their action was not influenced by the bank. Mike Edwards, RBC's chairman, told *Maclean's* that Air Canada shareholders should be able to vote on any offer during the time frame Ottawa has provided. "This is no way indicates support for or against the Olex bid," he says.

RBC Dominion Securities Inc., the bank's investment brokerage arm, is also working as strategic adviser to Canadian. Ironically RBC-DI's lawsuit to Air Canada's lead underwriter when shares in the Crown corporation were first sold to public investors in 1988 and still handles some of its financing. But Air Canada has grown close to the Bank of Montreal's Nesbitt Burns Inc.—its strategic adviser—ever since the investment house underwrote \$500 million worth of the company's shares and debentures in 1995. The airline episode is banking business around as much as possible. On the commercial side, Air

Canada relies heavily on the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce—the former a bit of a problem because Schwartz, a close friend of Scotiabank chairman Peter Gadsden, is on the bank's board.

Other than through Nesbitt, the Bank of Montreal has not been a major player in the airline business—despite

the fact that Air Canada chairman Jack Fraser is on the bank's board. BMO's potential involvement in a new bid would change that. Sources close to the negotiations are cautious, but point out that the Bank of Montreal is determined to expand its almost invisible merchant banking operation—and that this unit is capable of buying a large

## Connecting flight paths

On the face of it, Air Canada and its backers are in a heated battle to thwart Olex Corp.'s proposal to merge the carrier with Canadian Airlines. But in the small world of the airline industry and Canadian finance, airfields may not be as far apart as they seem. A program on some of the players.



Air Canada



Canadian Airlines-Olex

Sources say the Bank of Montreal may be prepared to join forces with Air Canada. Lufthansa and United Airlines is a bid to merge the carrier with Canadian Airlines.

Olex sold 47 per cent of Sky Chief, an in-flight catering service, to Lufthansa.

Olex president Gerry Schwartz is an acquaintance of Bank of Montreal chairman Harry Cooper and a friend of Jack Fraser, chairman of Air Canada's board.



The Bank of Montreal's Nelson Brown is Air Canada's strategic adviser. Schwartz and his wife, Heather Remson, are close friends of Harry Cooper, Nelson Brown's chief economist. Remson recently hosted a book launch for Cooper.

Schwartz and his wife, Heather Remson, are close friends of Harry Cooper, Nelson Brown's chief economist. Remson recently hosted a book launch for Cooper.

Air Canada recently announced it is getting one employee share-ownership plan away from the Royal Bank's trust division.

The Royal Bank is the biggest domestic commercial lender to Canadian Airlines.

Royal Bank Investment Management's mutual fund arm won a big piece of Air Canada's equity. RBCIM supported Olex's call for Air Canada shareholders to vote on an Olex proposal.

The Bank of Nova Scotia is one of Air Canada's two main banks.

Peter Gadsden, Scotiabank chairman, is a good friend of Schwartz, who sits on the bank's board.



The new Impala gives a nod to the past in details like the round tail-light, a trademark since the '60s. With a price starting at \$14,495, it also gives you good old-fashioned value. But all four stars are firmly planted in the future. Today's technology is put to advantage in several smart features. For example, a discreet LCD provides a continuous flow of information relative to

the Impala's operating condition. Other bits of engineering may go unnoticed by all but the most enthusiastic Impala fans. But you will notice the results in the tranquillity and comfort of the spacious interior and the efficient performance of the V6 engine. Being a totally new car, there is a lot to say about the new Impala, including a long list of standard features. You can explore it for yourself at [www.gmcanada.com](http://www.gmcanada.com) or, at that, not your style, you can always call 1-800-GM-DRIVE for more information.



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# Simply Palm

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## Carty: Don't 'disarm' Canada

*As 53, Montreal-born American Airlines CEO Drew Carty is a veteran of four wars on both sides of the border, with experience as both Air Canada and Canadian Pacific Air Lines, the former CEO of Canadian Airlines. During a business trip in his home town last week, he talked with National Affairs columnist Anthony Wilson-Smith about air wars, his airline role and the ordinary Ennervex.*



Maclean's American Airlines is moving a great deal of time and money in its partnership with Canadian Airlines. What are the attractions? Carty: Canada isn't there is an enormous and growing amount of cross-border traffic. Scotland, the access we gain to Vancouver, it is the ideal West Coast gateway from North America to Asia. As well, we don't really have a hub for traffic to Europe east of Chicago, and Toronto goes to that. Maclean's: Does there come a point at which American Airlines might decide the Canadian air union has become an impediment to justifying paying its way further money and money? Carty: Of course, you can come to an economic peak where an other alternative to present ef-

fort makes more sense, or else you simply do nothing more. Maclean's: How close are you to that? Carty: I have a lot of faith in [Oncor Corp. president] Gerry [Schwartz] and the solutions he proposes. We have been friends for many years and our trust is justified. You don't get involved in a proposal of this magnitude unless that kind of trust exists. Maclean's: Have there been any and often experience. How are that to be avoided, even if the Oncor bid is successful? Carty: It wasn't intended to be unfriendly and I still believe Air Canada would do well to reflect more carefully on the offer as good for both sides. I have a great deal of respect for [Air Canada CEO] Robert Milton, and in earlier talks some months ago, I felt the potential existed for things to move smoothly. Maclean's, Gerry Schwartz: has suggested American carriers should be given access to the Canadian domestic market, as long as the same is done in reverse. Is that a viable option? Carty: There's no momentum in the United States for that idea right now. And given that, it would be more for Canada to unfriendly disarm itself. Maclean's: Is Canada big enough to support two national airlines in their present form? Carty: I would not always have said that—especially since I have worked for both Air Canada and Vancouver—but the answer is no. The choice has now made itself clear: Canada can have two money-losing, institutional airlines functioning at far below capacity, or it is capable of producing one truly great carrier. Both are losing money. Air Canada took over about \$8 a share in 1988, when it was privatized. When Oncor began to play the stock was at about \$5. You would have been better off buying your money in a stock 11 years ago.

equity stake in Air Canada. If that were to happen, BMO would make Canadian banking history—and might prevent the rival Royal Bank from recouping the money lost to Canadiana. From the outside, the "phantom" bid appears to involve Air Canada's Class A non-voting shares, which could be issued or sold to United, Lufthansa and the bank without violating ownership rules. This makes analysts question whether a serious counteroffer is in the works. "Are they buying shares?" asks Healy. "From whom? Existing shareholders? Treasury? Is this a refinancing? Or an injection of new capital? If that's all they are doing," he says, "it really amounts to nothing except a big underwriting."

But, from the Bank of Montreal's point of view, even if the proposal will be no more than a bookending or buyback of the Class A non-voting shares, it would still involve an outlay of \$100 million—huge by the chivalrous bank's standards. A potential political factor is that pension fund managers Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec owns just under 20 per cent of these shares, which it could sell to Air Canada's allies to help block an Oncor deal.

Money managers say that what such shareholders really want is to know what's on the table. The investment community has come to accept Oncor's argument that no offer is not worth only \$8.25 an Air Canada share, but between \$10 and \$12, after taking into consideration that most shareholders would opt for a package of cash and stock. From the purely financial point of view, analysts say a deal could be done tomorrow for a conditional offer that was the equivalent of \$15 per Air Canada share.

With the Bank of Montreal in its camp, Air Canada may have finally found a source of money. Or the Norbert issue may just have pitched in temporarily to keep Oncor and its partner AMR Corp., the Texas-based parent of American Airlines, from getting control of Canada's biggest airline. What happens next will depend on United and Lufthansa, observers say. "It's inevitable that they will get a bid from those people," predicts an industry insider. "I just don't know what's taking them so long." Milton and the Air Canada board may be keeping their powder dry until just before the court-ordered Nov. 8 vote on the Oncor deal. Or Air Canada, the insider says, "will sell some stock and solidify its position—and Oncor will be left out in the cold and Canadian will be back in the soup." ■

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Deirdre McMurdy

## Discovering hidden costs

A man tells his friend that he plans to sell his old must for \$1,000. The friend is openly skeptical. When he sees him into the man, he asks how the proposed sale proceeded. "Great," says his buddy. "I traded my dog for two \$500 cars."

The anecdote may be comical and simplistic, but it is probably the best way to account for the rash of rich premiums awarded in recent corporate takeovers. It seems that asset value—like beauty—is in the eye of the beholder.

Last week brought another spectacular display of top-dollar mergers and acquisitions. Bell Canada had almost half a billion dollars for Allnet Inc. BCTE (Bell Communications Inc.) made its first entrance to Call Net Enterprises Inc. Shell Canada Ltd. unloaded \$770 million in assets onto Apache Canada Ltd. In the United States, the largest radio broadcast combined. And TV Guide Inc. was sold to a high-tech venture, revenue for content. Even law firms caught the bug: Tory, DesLauriers & Birrell of Toronto joined forces with Haynes & Carley of New York.

Covering all of these deals was the largest ever done. NCI WorldCom Inc.'s \$1.1-billion purchase of Sprint Corp., a bidding war with rival telecom giant BellSouth Corp. At week's end, however, BellSouth was already making eyes at another telecom target, Global Crossing Ltd., an Internet and long-distance provider.

The high dollar value of these deals is publicly justified by their perceived strategic significance: larger markets share, access to new technology, brand extension. Ken Nickerson, general manager of Microsoft Network Canada, explains that his company has recently been growing through actively costly acquisitions because, in a highly competitive business, it's fast and it digests Microsoft's existing pool of talent.

Another reason why so many firms are poisoning now is the extended bid window for equities. A great number of deals are based on stock swaps, which are relatively painless for shareholders—as long as prices continue to escalate.

Last month, U.S. regulation proposed tightening the rules for the way that companies account for mergers and acquisitions on their balance sheets. But in all the number crunching and calculation, there is almost no accounting for the human cost of these equity transactions. Yet, there are the hidden costs that will ultimately decide whether those deals ever achieve their paper potential.

Once the headlines fade, the integration process begins. And it can reveal some profound flaws in the projected benefits. Germany's Daimler is only now struggling to come to terms with the cultural differences and management vacu-

umity of its Chrysler purchase. Similarly, 12 months after Travelers Group Inc. and Citicorp merged, the fusion that "co-CBO" could run the

merged company has been shattered. ABC and Walt Disney Co. are still struggling to make their big-dollar merger work.

But the real consequences of the merger and acquisition fever are borne by workers and middle managers. Mergers, however smooth the initial assurances, mean layoffs and budget cuts. And many senior executives are about to face a steep new cost for proceeding so aggressively with their corporate agenda.

Chronic uncertainty and anxiety have contributed to a resurgence in union militancy. Automakers in Canada and the United States are leading the charge. But even the white-collar high-tech types at IBM are rallying, as their pension plans have been threatened by cutbacks.

A sense of worker solidarity is also being spurred by the growing financial disparity between labour and management. Recent data collected by United for a Fair Economy, a Boston-based think-tank, shows that widespread use of stock options means that, on average, the ratio of top executive to worker compensation is now 413 to 1. That's up from 42 to 1 in 1980. The widening gap between the two, along with record corporate profits, have fostered a feeling of entitlement and resentment among the rank and file.

These elements converged last week in the negotiations between the Canadian Auto Workers and Daimler-Chrysler. Although the CAW did not succeed with its demand that the company stop Magna International Inc., one of its suppliers, to unionize, it did make remarkable progress in establishing the national president, Union leader Peter Harpelle actually managed to keep the issue on the table throughout negotiations—and provide serious public debate about its viability.

In geopolitics, a great deal of cry often erupts whenever a third party deliberately interferes with an established bilateral relationship. In Canada, it occurs—and causes an indignation apiece—every time a French dignitary makes a public declaration endorsing sovereignty for Quebec.

The CAW is using that tactic in asking the Big Three automakers to compel its certification of independent public companies like Magna. They lose because they pushed too far, too fast. But, like it or not, similar demands will surface again—in the auto industry and in other sectors. Unions are organizing their influence and making it clear that they intend to extend their grasp beyond the traditional issues of wages and pensions. That's yet another corporate cost that has not been accounted for.



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### A wrench in the works

Quebec Finance Minister Bernard Landry is asking the country's major stock exchanges to reopen the deal they struck in March and leave the Montreal Exchange open to trade in companies worth up to \$500 million. Quebec's long-term economic interest demands "a real stock exchange" in Montreal, Landry said, not simply one focused on the derivatives market as envisioned in the rationalization plan put forward by the Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver exchanges.

### Last call

With beer co-sponsors—and market doom—on the decline, Molson Inc. is raising off the taps at one of its two Ontario breweries, putting 616 people out of work in Brampton. The company plans to invest \$100 million in its other Ontario plant in Toronto. The decision follows the layoff of 287 managers and sales staff last month.

### Long-distance ownership

Bell Canada says it is willing to pay \$427 million for majority ownership of Alcatel Inc., the company owned by the mayor of the first major phone companies in Atlantic Canada last June. Bell effectively controls Alcatel already, with 41 per cent of its shares. Full ownership would consolidate Bell's network east of Montreal.

### Strategic withdrawal

Shell Canada Ltd. is selling of and gas fields worth \$770 million to independent producer Apache Corp. of Houston, continuing the trend of Big Oil withdrawing from conventional oil activities in Western Canada. Shell's plan is to focus on Alberta oilfields and offshore activity such as the Sable Island gas project off the East Coast.

### Shopping Calvin

Calvin Klein Inc., the edgy American fashion label with the pocky ads, is looking for a partner to help it open more of its women stores. The Klein company, a \$3.7-billion empire of accessories, undergarments and sportswear, has hired New York investment banker Lazard Frères & Co. to play corporate matchmaker.

## Hargrove's bluff called

The Canadian Auto Workers reached a tentative deal with DaimlerChrysler Canada Inc. after backing down on a controversial demand that the automaker retrocede as a bid to organize a Magna International Inc. auto-parts plant. CAWO president Doug Hargrove had promised a strike unless DaimlerChrysler could get Magna to recognize certification at a Windsor, Ont., plant—if a court showed that more than 50 per cent of workers there had signed union cards. As the strike deadline loomed, Jim Holden, president of DaimlerChrysler's North American operations, called Hargrove to say that the company could not tell Magna how to



DaimlerChrysler negotiator Kenneth McCarrar (left) and Hargrove, dropping the Magna issue

run its business. Some of the 14,000 DaimlerChrysler CAWO members also objected to striking over Magna. Hargrove dropped the issue, admitting that he had used a negotiating tactic and that "I got clipped a bit." The tentative pact provides for pay increases of 4.5 per cent a year over three years, plus bonus payments. Hargrove warned General Motors not to assume he will be bluffing in the next round.

## Sears keeps the Eaton's name alive

Scotiabank Canada said it will pay \$30 million for five Eaton's stores including the flagship Toronto Eaton Centre site and its downtown Vancouver, Victoria and Calgary, as well as its suburban Winnipeg. The stores will bear the Eaton's name, said Sears chairman Paul Walton. Sears intends to return Eaton's to its roots as a full-line department store, moving away from its emphasis on high-end fashion. A relaunch is expected in mid-2000. Meanwhile Eaton's said it would pay unsecured creditors about half of the \$200 million they are owed.

## Financial outlook

Strong employment gains, particularly in the manufacturing and construction sectors, helped to push the jobless rate down to 7.5 per cent in

September, Statistics Canada reported. The last time unemployment was this low was in June, 1990. In total, 64,000 new jobs were created in September, all full time, ScotCan said. Since last year, manufacturing employment has grown by 9.5 per cent, with the largest gains in computers and electronics. Women were the beneficiaries of the new jobs. "With the Canadian economy experiencing strong and broadly based growth, job creation is likely to continue at a healthy clip in the months ahead," said Marc Lévesque, a senior economist at TD Economics.





Ross Laver

## Post traumatic syndrome

OK, so it doesn't exactly rank as one of this country's greatest social injustices. But the more I sort it out, the more I'm convinced that Conrad Black's *National Post* is giving small-c conservatives and laissez-faire capitalists a bad name.

It's safe to say that many Canadians would consider that a good thing. Personally, though, I'm in favour of lower taxes, less government intervention and free trade. It's just that the *Post*'s rantings too often go over the edge. (Surely no other daily in North America publishes as many approving references to libertarian scoundrel Ayn Rand. Write the miffed slave today, there's no doubt the paper would be backing the Russian-born Rand as founding leader of the United States.)

At times, the *Post*'s pervasive editorial bias produces stories that are downright loopy. A case in point was last month's historic coverage of Adrienne Clarkson's appointment as Governor General. "Activities to move into Italian Hall," the page 1 headline blared, as though the paper had uncovered a plot by Marxist guerrillas to assault the Bank of Canada. Inside, two full pages of stories documented Clarkson's socialist activist past, describing her as a "well-known supporter" of women's rights, the anti-fire-order movement and—horrors of horrors—publicly funded schools. (Quick, somebody inform the Canadian Security Intelligence Service!) That day's lead editorial thundered that Clarkson would be "a Governor General for half the country" and was by nature "highly partisan" and loaded down with "ideological baggage."

Hence, a hot pot of calumny in your coffee, eh? All right, so it's true that Clarkson's politics aren't everybody's thing. But really, who cares? The Governor General, in case anyone has forgotten, would almost as much political influence in this country as a Michigan's veggie. Maybe even less. Instead of dumping all over Clarkson's appointment, right-wingers really should be celebrating her non-official involvement. If she's any place in Canada where a left-leaning, unremunerated economic nationalist can do no harm, Rickson Hall is it. The more we have to fear a man she'll dip into the federal budget singles to buy new chinos and curtains—a small price to pay, it could be argued, for containing the socialist, pro-public-school threat.



Clarkson, a notorious supporter of public schools

Another example of *Post* wishiness was a recent three-page article on the "alarming mass stampede" of Canadian investors out of domestic stock-based mutual funds, and the rising popularity of funds that track foreign stocks. A number of publications, including *Maclean's*, have reported on this trend, which surfaced last year and has since gathered speed. In the first eight months of 1999, net new sales of foreign equity funds were \$8.3 billion, more than half the total sales for the entire industry. Meanwhile, demand for domestic stocks has collapsed. Since January, \$799 million has flowed out of Canadian equity funds, a draining reversal from the same period last year when investors put \$7.1 billion into domestic stock funds.

The bizarre thing about the *Post*'s story was the conclusion it drew. Rounding up the usual suspects—a fund industry spokesman, the director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, a Tory MP and a Reformer—the newspaper suggested that the flight from domestic stocks was an indictment of the federal Liberal government and proof that Canadians are "voting with their wallets against an underperforming economy beset by high taxes" and low productivity. "Investment dollars are very rational," insists Federation head Walter Robertson, who was quoted as saying, "They move quickly, and if they don't like what they see, they move somewhere else."

Well, yes, but I suspect even the *Post* millionaires' liable to impute intention to the behaviour of most mutual fund investors. Sure, it's fun to blare high taxes—hey, if it causes the government to move faster on that front, I'm all in favour—but it's obvious to most investment pros that taxes have nothing to do with the recent switch from domestic to foreign funds. Instead, investors are responding to the fact that for several years, Canadian stocks have badly underperformed other foreign markets. In typical, learning-like fashion, they are now buying into last year's hot markets, and paying dearly for the privilege.

Meanwhile, guess what's happening here at home? The Canadian stock market is enjoying one of its best years this decade, with returns, in Canadian dollar terms, far exceeding the U.S. benchmark Standard and Poor's 500 index.

Oddly enough, the *Post*'s three-page story left that part out

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# Playing for the love of the game

Underfunded Canadians take on rugby's top pros

**Gareth Ross** may well be the least-known famous person in Canada. The Victoria native has parted with the King of Tonga, twice met Queen Elizabeth II ("She's very nice") and last week was introduced to French President Jacques Chirac at a reception in Béziers, France. And when Prime Minister Jean Chrétien proposed Canada House in London last year, Ross was among celebrities such as singer Bryan Adams and actor Paul Giamatti who were invited to toast the dazzling renovation at a glittering gala. Yet few in Canada know that Ross, 32, is captain of the national rugby team, an international star and the first man to complete in four straight Rugby World Cups. Even this week, playing in the current Cup being staged in France and Wales, an event expected to draw a worldwide TV audience of three billion, Ross and his teammates are mostly strangers in their own land. "It's funny," he said from the team hotel in Bordenau, Lake. "We don't get much recognition in Canada, but some of us are household names over here."

Rugby Canada wants to change that. In fact, it is desperately trying to padlock current interest in the Rugby World Cup, being shown on CTV Sportsnet, into corporate sponsorship to support a team known more for courage and sacrifice than fame and depth. But sponsors are hard to come by in a marketplace that prefers mainstream professional sports, and last week, team officials insisted they needed to make it at least into the quarter-final stage of the playoffs—a task made unlikely by two first-round losses and a nagging thigh injury to Ross—to convince corporate



Ross clearing against France's team in Béziers

Canada to open its wallet. "This is make or break for us," Canadian coach Pat Palfrey said bluntly.

Their desperation stems from the fact that, since 1995, when most of the rugby world turned professional, countries with well-funded leagues and programs began paying players to train and play year-round. That widened the talent gap between the powers, including England, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and second-tier countries, such as Canada, Fiji and Argentina, and that gap will grow further if Rugby Canada cannot find the money to pay its players before the 2005 Cup. Palfrey says they need to offer a part-time income of at least \$30,000 annually per man to keep players in cooperative form.

That, however, is still well below the \$100,000 a year many countries pay each of their players, and a pittance

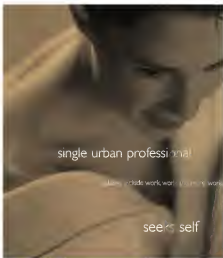
compared with the nearly \$250,000 per man that England is promising just in bonuses for a Cup triumph. By contrast, Canada's sponsor, telecommunications equipment manufacturer Newbridge Networks, has pledged a total of \$50,000 to \$170,000 in bonuses, depending on the result, to be split among the 60 Canadian players and team officials.

Although a dozen of Canada's 50 players are professionals in Europe and Japan, the rest either fit travel and training into their regular job schedules, or quit work altogether and lean on families for support. Centre Scott Bryan, 30, is on an extended leave from his job as in-house lawyer for Markham, Ont.-based Star Data Systems. "Fortunately," Bryan said, "the people I report to have an athletic background, and they have been very understanding." Palfrey, a nephrologist with the kidney disease unit at Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld., also traded on colleagues' generosity during the 10 weeks he has taken off this year. "I am resigning from the team after

this," he said last week. "I would need to take off as much time next year, and I can't do that anymore."

Whatever happens in Canada, Ross will likely remain in England even after he returns. Before signing last summer with another English league team, Bedford, he served for London Wasps and played championship games before nearly 80,000 roaring fans at Twickenham Stadium—a far cry from the handful who turn out for national team games at Thunderbird Stadium in Vancouver. In London, his status among the grass of the game attracts sponsors, working engagements and job offers. But he hopes the legacy of the current World Cup will strengthen the sport back home. "These guys give everything," he says. "They deserve support."

James Duncan



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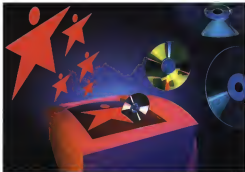


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## Education

# Carrot or stick?

## Back-to-school programs for teenage mothers

When Shannon Hunt found out last year that she was pregnant, it looked like tough times were ahead. For starters, she was only 16. The father was not interested in helping out, and Hunt's mother had no interest in taking care of a child again. The Bramford, Ont., teen was sure of one thing, though: she wanted to go back to school as soon as possible. And last month, she did. Her welfare payments cover a one-bedroom apartment, and a subsidy pays for her seven-month-old daughter's care in a licensed, nonprofit day care on the grounds of Thelma Johnson Collegiate, where Hunt is finishing her final year of high school. Under a new Ontario program aimed at forcing 16- and 17-year-old mothers back to class, she also receives additional funds for baby-sitting, clothing and transportation. But that carrot is accompanied by a big stick, if Hunt drops out, she loses her welfare. So far, things are working out well.

"We're two more of a routine now and I can study after Alisha goes to bed," says Hunt, now 17. "It's actually not as hard as some people said it would be."

Still, the controversial program, announced last March as part of the Ontario government's work-for-welfare policy and expected to be in force across the province by year's end, has left many observers with mixed feelings. Virtually everyone, from social policy activists to social service administrators to academics, applauds the goal: education, they agree, is one of the best ways to ensure self-sufficiency. But the initiative, which will be administered by municipalities, takes a harder hit than a similar scheme in New Brunswick. And many observers express strong reservations about the mandatory nature of

the policy, which will apply to about 1,200 teen parents. John Linnos, executive director of the Children's Aid Society in London, Ont., says it may help those single parents on welfare who need an extra push to go back to school. "But if you really have to lean on someone," he says, "they may have issues that are better dealt with in other ways, such as counselling."



Guidance with Alisha's day care is crucial.

For those eager to return to school, but who lack support, the LEAP program (the acronym stands for Learning, Earning and Parenting) provides a number of incentives. Participants go to the top of local waiting lists for subsidized child care, which can be very long. In addition to existing child-care subsidies, they may also receive—at the discretion of municipal welfare caseworkers—up to \$4,500 per parent for each course in baby-sitting while they attend the 35 hours of parenting courses that the program also makes manda-

tory. Julie Galbraith, another LEAP participant in Bramford, says that the program helps improve the image of teen parents. "A lot of people think we do nothing, because we are on assistance, and think that fat," says the 18-year-old mother of Alisha. "A lot of us are working really hard."

But critics say the program is a cynical attempt to target a vulnerable group, and that it could lead to unfair consequences. Andrew Mitchell, co-ordinator of Workday Watch, a province-wide group that monitors welfare reform, says the assistance component could be used to shove parents off welfare for alleged breaches of its provisions, such as staying home with a sick child. Cheryl Dugas, who has dealt with many teen mothers in her day-care centre in a downtown Toronto secondary school, questions the heavy-handed approach, noting the very few need coming back to school. "The real issue is finding a day-care space," says Dugas. "We always have more requests than we can handle."

Despite Ontario's claims that it is first off the mark with the concept, New Brunswick has been running a similar program since 1995. Single parents under 18 who need social assistance receive welfare benefits and a full child-care subsidy on condition they are enrolled in school or a training program. Payments are drastically reduced—from \$700 to \$300 a month—if any teen parent refuses to attend, Janet Thomas, director of policy and planning for human resources development in

Fredricton, says that all 74 teen parents currently on welfare are in school. But there is a distinct advantage there as no waiting list for day care, unlike in Ontario, where there are more than 12,000 waiting for subsidized day care in Toronto alone. "Being a parent in your teens is really hard, and not all of them are emotionally ready for it," says Thomas. "But I find they are pretty kids. I just can't believe what they do." Cindy, whose credit is due

Patricia Chisholm

# Do we need more doctors?

By John Nicol

*The ultimate goal of medicine must be the act of keeping people well rather than just patching them up when they're sick. That means doctors.*

—Former Saskatchewan premier Tommy Douglas, pioneer of medicine.

In **Kyle, Sask.**, in the heartland of the province where Douglas launched medicine in 1947, nurse practitioner Joanne Perry embodies his vision of a co-ordinated health system. In a day's work, Perry might treat car accident victims, order lab tests or prescriptions for her patients, suture a wound or spend an hour on a physical, talking about how to improve the patient's health. Perry is one of the more than 500 registered nurses across Canada who have taken an extra year's training to enable them to perform many duties traditionally reserved



Perry, patient Darryl White: "The nurse has traditionally been understaffed."

While communities plead for more physicians, there may be better ways to care for patients

for physicians. Since 1995, she has been part of a team of three nurse practitioners and one travelling doctor serving 4,000 people in three farm communities, 200 km southwest of Saskatoon. In recent years, Perry has depended on a willingness to collaborate—the physician must not feel threatened by the nurses' enhanced position. "The nurse has traditionally been understaffed," says Perry. "It doesn't matter who gets the job done. It matters that patients get the care they need."

Across Canada, from rural outposts to the major centres of Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Calgary, community leaders are complaining about a shortage of doctors. Canada, in fact, had more physicians over the past decade than ever before. But with medical schools and immigration now producing fewer new doctors each year than the

number retiring or leaving the country, many observers see a crisis looming in the new millennium. The Canadian Medical Assoc., made up of the executives of nine national medical associations, calculates that Canada needs to produce 900 more doctors each year to maintain current levels and meet the increasing demands of a growing, aging population. The Canadian Medical Association, the national physicians' body, is loudly lobbying provincial governments to increase the number of students admitted to medical schools each year from 1,500 to 2,000.

But is that the solution? Not according to some of the country's top health policy analysts. While acknowledging that there are doctor shortages in some parts of the country and in some specialties, they say too much emphasis is being placed on the supply of physi-

cians, and not enough on seeking alternative ways of delivering health care with existing physician levels. Cash-strapped governments, pegging the cost of every new doctor in the system at \$250,000 a year, seem to be listening. At a mid-September meeting in Charlottetown, Canadian health ministers made no commitment to increase the number of medical students. "Producing these doctors," they said in a joint statement, "will not, alone, meet access."

In the debate over doctor numbers, part of the focus is on how they are paid—generally by a fee for each service they provide. Whether ordering lab tests, relieving the patient to a specialist or initiating any other procedure, doctors have enjoyed the trust of governments that they will use their discretion in the best interests of the patient. But the system can be unnecessarily costly—allowing doctors to order expensive, wide-ranging blood tests, for example, when a specific test might be all that is required. More important, it

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## Doctors' organizations are ready to discuss new ways of delivering care and getting paid

actually rewards physicians for practices—such as seeing more patients for shorter visits—which may not, in fact, produce the best results.

To many observers, the problem is as much an inefficient use of doctors as it is a shortage. Notably, the ratio of physicians to population has remained fairly constant through the 1990s—estimated last in 1998 at 185 per 100,000 people, up considerably from the 147 of 20 years earlier. But the numbers do not tell the whole story. Small and even medium-sized communities are finding it difficult to attract family physicians. Those who do take the positions often insist on working shorter hours than their predecessors normally did. With half of all medical school graduates now women—who tend to put in fewer hours than male doctors because of family commitments—that trend will likely continue. At the same time, fewer women are choosing to specialize.

Foronto-based health policy analyst Dr. Michael Rachlis says the system must be changed to encourage physicians to be more productive. A doctor at a walk-in clinic may see 60 patients in a day and take home three times as much money as a family doctor, says Rachlis. But by seeing just 20 patients and giving each more time, a family doctor might provide the type of care that makes patients healthier and reduces the need for them to use the system. "We need to develop a comprehensive plan," says Rachlis. "That means offering alternatives to fee-for-service remuneration. It means encouraging practicing rural high-school students to consider medical school, and making our existing doctors go further through the better use of nurses and other professionals."

The governing bodies for Canadian doctors recognize it is a time for change. Dr. Peter Newbery, president of the

College of Family Physicians, says that association is considering new payment and service delivery options. "It isn't a popular position," says Newbery, himself a salary-paid family doctor in Huxford, in northern British Columbia, "because a lot of family docs out there are used to fee-for-service." With established practices, they have difficulty seeing the need for change. "But increasingly," he adds, "young docs graduating from family practice programs are prepared to look for alternative methods of payment, and have been trained to appreciate the skills and abilities of other health-care providers."



So it is back to Douglas's largely unfulfilled vision of doctors working in collegial teams with nurses and other professionals, within a system rebased on the maintenance of health and the prevention of illness. Slow to get established, that concept may become a reality. One model is thriving in 150 community health clinics in Quebec and another 100 scattered across the country. Tony Kaufman, executive director of one clinic in west Montreal, says they grew from pilot projects across the country as a result of a 1992 study commissioned by the federal government. "With general practitioners on salary, the clinics provide a full range of services, starting with a nurse who might direct the patient to another

nurse, a doctor, a dietitian or a social worker. "Using physicians for everything," argues Kaufman, "is expensive as hell, and not always efficient. If we improve co-ordination, we can use the physicians we have much better."

For this reason Kaufman is not convinced there is a doctor shortage. "The question should be: How best to deliver primary health care in Canada?" he says. "If you're doing something inefficiently, and asking if we have enough people doing it, you're going about it the wrong way." In Bentley, Sask., Dr. Tony Hamilton, the physician working with Joanne Perry and the other nurses, understands that concept. While the average Canadian has a full-time family physician in Canada 1,500 patients, Hamilton says he can comfortably provide primary care for twice that many. While the same practitioners take care of many basic services, the salaried physicians in five to seven time with patients "doing health promotion" so they don't have to return for unnecessary visits.

The provincial medical associations, which fall under the umbrella of the CMA, have long been regarded as the impediment to change. But Dr. Hugh Scully, president of the CMA, told *Montreal* that doctors are prepared to discuss other models of delivery and new payment schemes. He insists, however, that doctors must be at the table as discussions begin, and they insist forward to co-opting with other health-care professionals as long as physicians have their say in areas where they have "the best expertise."

If nothing else, the shortage debate has led to a greater recognition of fundamental problems, says Rachlis. He is optimistic that what Tony Douglas considered the final and most difficult step in the implementation of medicare will be realized across Canada. "If we don't move on to the second stage of medicare—the efficient treatment for patients and better constraints of doctors—then," says Rachlis, "we risk losing medicare altogether." ■



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## Law

# Medicinal weed

Ottawa approves applications to use marijuana

By Andrew Clark

Comedian Howard Stern came up with the idea for a benefit performance to be held for AIDS, Canada's first, after his cousin, diagnosed with HIV, began using marijuana to ease his pain. Held last week at the Yik Yik club in Toronto, the road-show comedy show raised money for two local groups fighting to win the right to use marijuana as a medicine. In comedy, timing is everything, and Stern's was impeccable. On the same day Health Minister Allan Rock announced he was allowing 14 Canadians to use marijuana for medicinal purposes. To the show's comedians, a group not known for their anti-drug stance, that represented victory. One performer, Craig Campbell, lit a six-inch joint and inhaled deeply. "This," joked the 30-year-old, "is my tribute to the cause."

Rock's announcement clearly established the federal government's support for the use of marijuana to ease symptoms associated with some diseases. It followed Rock's decision to have no more than the first two patients—both suffering from AIDS—from prosecution under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Health Canada officials did not identify the 14 new patients or their ailments. But marijuana's advocates say it is effective for a wide range of conditions including AIDS, multiple sclerosis, cancer, chemotherapy side-effects, epilepsy and some eating disorders.

Under a procedure established last May, applicants for exemptions must provide a detailed doctor's report along with other information about their condition. The special dispensation allows them to grow marijuana for their own use, but not to buy it or to receive it from a caregiver. The department is considering 80 informal inquiries and 28 more official applications. But many

activists in the fight to legalize medicinal marijuana believe Health Canada's provisions do not go far enough.

Warren S. Hwang, director of the Toronto Compassion Centre, one of the Yik Yik's beneficiaries, says about 3,000 chronically ill Canadians use organizations like his to obtain marijuana. "It's a pain," he said of the 16 exemptions, "but what about the rest of the people suffering around the country?" Health Canada counters that it still lacks reliable information about the



Campbell, supporting the campaign to legalize cannabis for medical use

medicinal value of marijuana. "Right now, all we have is anecdotal evidence," says spokesman Derek Kent.

To address that problem, Rock said, the first Canadian clinical research into the medical benefits of marijuana will begin in Toronto early next year. Trials will be held in other centers over a period of five years, at a possible cost of \$7.5 million. The Toronto program will involve roughly 250 subjects taking either research-grade cannabis, dronabinol—a drug containing a synthetic version of the psychoactive agent tetrahy-

cannabinol—or a placebo. Health Canada has not settled on a source for pure, standardized marijuana. But it will not be cannabis seized by the RCMP. International conventions ban the use of illegal substances for legal reasons, and street drugs may contain fungi, moulds and other contaminants that make them unsuitable in clinical composition and potency.

The exemption process, already slow and laborious, may become unworkable if thousands submit applications. Health Canada insists it is not opening the door to legalizing the drug. "This is not about decriminalization," insists Kent. "This is about providing medical marijuana for those who are sick."

But even as Rock announced the new exemptions, the government's marijuana policy was under attack in another forum. In the Ontario Court of Appeal, lawyer Ains Young, a professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, appeared for two Toronto men caught up in marijuana cases. The federal government is appealing an Ontario judge's decision to stay prosecution charges against Terry Parker, 42, who has used marijuana to control his epileptic seizures. Christopher Clay, 28, a legal activist, is appealing convictions for possession and trafficking. Ontario, Young argued, does not have the constitutional right to deprive Canadians of marijuana because, he said, it is no more lethally toxic than sugar.

Young said he believes that, so far, only the terminally ill have been granted exemptions. "When the government gives discretion to those with debilitating illnesses," he said, "then we will see a real change because then you will have tens of thousands of users."

Meanwhile, the comedians are already planning their next benefit. "Fourteen," Stern teased on stage. "We're not much, but it's a start." And with a gesture to the marijuana-friendly audience seated at Yik Yik's dinner tables, the comedian added: "And I'm guessing that food sales tonight were way up." ■

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Law

## Contentious crop

Hemp farmers get caught in the war against drugs

On Aug. 9, U.S. Customs Service officials in Detroit made their move, seizing 18,000 kg—of Canadian hempseed. It was a single case of zero tolerance. The seed came from industrial hemp, which—like marijuana—is a variety of the species *Cannabis sativa*. Although it is illegal to grow industrial hemp in most of the United States, it has always been legal to export it. On the other hand, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will not allow any substance containing even trace amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive agent in marijuana, into the United States. So on the DEA's instructions, customs locked the birdseed up. Caught in the middle are farmers like Jean Laprise, president of Chisholm, Ont.-based Konec Ltd., the company that grows the hemp and sends it south. If the U.S. zero tolerance policy on industrial hemp continues, he says, the company's future is bleak. "I'll tell you right now," says Laprise, "that would break us."

Across Canada, close to 700 farmers have jumped on the hemp bandwagon since Ottawa legalized it as a crop last year for the first time since 1938. With 14,000 hectares already devoted to hemp, they are courting on continental and U.S. manufacturers who use the versatile, ecologically friendly plant to produce dozens of products, from shampoo and cooking oil to paper and clothing. Laprise says Konec, a large farming operation that has invested millions of dollars in its new crop, has been shipping hemp to the United States for almost a year. Suddenly, following the birdseed seizure and a U.S. Customs order recalling 17 other Konec hemp shipments, the company faces \$700,000 in fines and an uncertain future. "The

DEA is trying to destroy whatever Canadian companies it can," says 45-year-old Laprise, "so they can discourage U.S. farmers and companies from manufacturing or selling hemp products."

What frustrates Laprise and other growers is that their product has no narcotic value. The seed's THC content of a barely measurable 0.0014 per cent compares with the minimum four per cent—and up to 20 per cent—found in marijuana. The DEA's unexpected deci-



Laprise, a legal hemp farmer, 700 producers in Canada

sion to crack down on hemp impacts almost a year and a half after the market opened. It has stunned Canadian farmers and the many American manufacturers of hemp products. Konec, which has led off four of its 26 employees since the seizure, is planning to file a claim under the North American Free Trade Agreement, arguing that U.S. officials are interfering with international trade. And a Sebastopol, Calif., company, Nerva, which uses Canadian hemp to make a popular line of sandals here, says it has lost \$60,000 since its supplies were cut off. It and other U.S. manufacturers are contemplating a class-action suit against the U.S.

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**Law**

government to have the DEA back off.

Like Laprise, most of Canada's hemp farmers turned to the plant in the belief it was a desirable rotation crop with a proven market in the United States. "It's not hard to grow," says Erling Olsen, who planted eight hectares on his farm in Warner, Alta. For Keres, hemp has turned out to be more profitable than many of his traditional crops, including corn, soybeans and wheat.

Hemp products have caught on quickly in the United States. Bud Sholin, chairman of the North American Industrial Hemp Council Inc., estimates the business to be worth \$225 million annually. Under constant pressure from U.S. farmers, several states—including Hawaii, North Dakota and Minnesota—have passed laws allowing hemp crops. But Nevada's president, John W. Rouds, says the DEA is trying to quash the industry. The agency, he says, is trying to prevent annual funding of millions of dollars for cannabis eradication, 98 per cent of which, he maintains, is spent burning "stirch weed," a free-growing strain of industrial hemp with no psychoactive properties. "They are trying to cut off our supply so there won't be a hemp market," says Rouds.

Six months from now, Canadian farmers will have warehouses bulging full of hemp seed and fibre that can't be sold in America.

A DEA spokesman says the agency became concerned about hemp shipments once it learned that seeds were being used to create edible products such as granola bars, beer and cooking oil. "What happens to the people," he asks, "who are using hemp oil to cook and THC runs up on their drug test?" In the short term, Rouds says, publicity surrounding the biased stance has helped increase awareness of hemp products. But Laprise, now a reluctant champion of the hemp industry, warns that his investment will go up in smoke. "We're not a group of optimists by any stretch of the imagination," he says. "We're just Canadian farmers who think we've found a nice rotation crop."

Andrew Chish



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## Films

# Romance on automatic pilot

Bereaved spouses seek sexual healing; a British hood pursues revenge

### Random Hearts

Directed by Sydney Pollack

Think of it as a perverse date movie for bereaved couples. Identifying with Harrison Ford or Keanu Scott Thomas, you get to imagine that your spouse dies in a plane crash while flying off to Miami for an adulterous weekend. Torn between grief and anger, you meet your counterpart, the person married to the lover who died in the seat beside your spouse, and you tumble into the sack—which shouldn't be so bad, because Harrison Ford and Keanu Scott Thomas are both better looking than the dead husbands. But there is a problem: neither of them seems to be in the mood. And as they gaze their way through the nuptial nomenclature of *Random Hearts*, the redemptive ceremonies meet, and then begin negotiating the awkward transition from grief to sex, the movie takes a final nosedive.

Ford and Scott Thomas are both outfitted with threadbare his-and-hers subplots. He chases a crooked black cop through the backrooms, while she finds off the spin doctor running her campaign. Based on Warren Adler's 1984 novel, *Random Hearts* was penned by Oscar-winning screenwriter Kirk Luchini (*Out of Africa*), but at least five writers have taken a crack at it over the past 15 years. And close to a string of desperation to the dialogue: "I was wondering if you would come," says Duché when Kay shows up at his cabin. "Gay like you, girl like me, what possible reason could there be not to?" she says. This is romance by default, a rule of two hearts at the mercy of a nosedive script.

Although anyone who has seen the ads for *Random Hearts* knows the premise, it takes almost half an hour for Duché and Kay to catch up—to learn their names were together on the plane that has crashed into Chesapeake Bay. In building towards this revelation, director Sydney Pollack (Thelma) craves surprising tension. But once the passion



Ford (left), Scott Thomas: moment tale of love by default

erous meet, and then begin negotiating the awkward transition from grief to sex, the movie takes a final nosedive.

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### The Loney

Directed by Steven Soderbergh

From the confessed intimacy of sex, lies and subterfuge to the criminal antics of *Out of Sight*, Steven Soderbergh is arguably America's most innovative and versatile director. *The Loney* is a minor

film, a simple revenge drama, but it is ingeniously crafted. In an inspired casting coup, Soderbergh has placed two Staten icons, Terence Stamp and Peter Fonda, in roles that play on their own status as actual inmates defined by the era that moulded them. Wilson (Stamp) is a vicious ex-con who, after nine years in a British jail, visits Los Angeles to avenge the mysterious death of his daughter. His quarry is her late boyfriend, a shiny motel

pushover named Valentine (Fonda).

Wilson is from another world. Spending the doped seven sleep of an idyllic English lockdown, he leads his way through Los Angeles in a violent rage, while The Who wails on the soundtrack. Valentine, meanwhile, is embroiled in intricacies of the States, which he decodes to be his young girlfriend in a dream of "some place far away half remembered where you woke up—in my year '66 and early '67. That's all it was." And so the sound of Steppenwolf. He tells a story about hitting a deer while riding his motorcycle—a glancing reference to *Easy Rider*.

For flashback to Wilson's past, meanwhile, Soderbergh uses black-and-white clips from Ken Loach's 1967 *Just a Few Cents*, in which Stamp plays a young govtop named Wilson. But in a movie that is almost Staten flashbacks, the director never sinks into pure nostalgia. He cuts and shuffles time frames with such deft sleight-of-hand that everything seems fresh. Constructing *The Loney* almost entirely from cultural baggage, Soderbergh has somehow created a movie of startling originality.

Brian D. Johnson

Pinchas  
Zukerman  
helps reinvent the  
National Arts  
Centre

# A white knight hits the road

By John Geddes

Pinchas Zukerman silences the 46-member National Arts Centre Orchestra with a featured violin. The musicians' rehearsal of Mendelssohn's *Sinfonia No. 10 in B minor*, which they are preparing to play at a fund-raising concert featuring Kaluk Perlman—Zukerman's old friend and one of his few rivals among living violinists—has hit a rough patch. With a pained expression, Zukerman coats the troublesome passage, writing an area lightly to signify the off-putting flaccid rhythms. Then he sings it again, this time the way he wants to hear it, his conductor's baton blurring like a hummingbird wing in his right hand, while his left scratches now and then imagined notes out of the air. The orchestra tries it once more. As he conducts, Zukerman leans forward with an arched eyebrow and the beginning of a smile—hey, not bad—that makes the handsome 51-year-old maestro look like a wild boy who is finally getting his way. Imagine such a caprice in front of a classroom. Now

imagine the classroom stretching across Canada. That is what an ambitious new management group at the National Arts Centre has in mind. After years of financial woes and chaotic revolving-door leadership, the 50-year-old Ottawa institution is trying to achieve itself as not merely a showcase for the performing arts, but also a driving force in the training of promising young musicians, actors and dancers from across the country. And the NAC's first bid to refashion its internal image is Zukerman's inaugural tour as its music director, with 14 concerts this month in 11 cities from Vancouver to Halifax. What is happening between shows, though, may be even more crucial for the NAC's long-term revival strategy: a hectic schedule of more than 90 teaching "outsreach" events, from a Zukerman-led class for talented teenage musicians in Calgary to a string quartet concert for Grade 4 pupils in Kingston, Ont.

But playing to kids using cross-legged on gym floors is only the start of the NAC's education thrust. A thick teachers' resource kit, including a free CD of Zukerman's first concert-

ing with his new orchestra, Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, is being sent to 4,000 public schools. The idea is to get kids writing poems and painting pictures based on the music. There are classroom guides for social-studies lessons on Antonio Vivaldi's 16th-century Venice, and even for connecting his changing seasons theme to today's global warming woes. The NAC has also set up a tour Web site aimed at kids and their teachers, and Zukerman will conduct a master class live on the Internet from Vancouver on Oct. 22, then answer high-school students' questions in a second "Webcast" from Providence slated for Oct. 29.

The NAC's new management insists all the effort to get their music and musicians into classrooms is more than a gimmick for the current year. David Leighton, who took over as the NAC's chairman last May and Peter Herndorf, who became its chief executive officer last month, see education as the long-term key to making the centre mean something to Canadians. And Leighton adds it may also be the best strategy for safeguarding the NAC's approximately \$20 million in annual federal funding. "The NAC has really been seen as a government-supported institution mainly for the benefit of people in Ottawa," he says. "Our ability to play a national role is going to be in the education and youth area, where Pinchas Zukerman already has a very strong reputation."

When the centre announced it was hiring the New York-born violin and viola virtuoso last year, attention focused on his clout as a top-rank performer—and the badly needed boost to ticket sales and corporate sponsorships that the financially strapped NAC was surely praying he would generate. Outside serious music circles, however, few realized the NAC was also getting a dedicated teacher.

Zukerman in rehearsal with the orchestra: the dedicated teacher is central to the new focus on training

with his own program at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music. And as a teacher, Zukerman is a technological innovator, a pioneer of video-conferencing as a way to reach his students in distant cities. One of his first initiatives at the NAC was to launch a summer teaching program to bring promising young Canadian classical musicians to Ottawa. "Performance is the last thing I think about," he declares. "I can play, I can conduct, but teaching is another form of learning, which is what I am always trying to myself—listen, listen."

With Zukerman's devotion to teaching as its starting point, the new regime at the NAC is aiming partly to fill a void in an era when school budgets are tight and music is often dismissed as a costly fad. "We understand that we are going into a school environment that is aiming to maintain an arts presence at all," says orchestra manager Chris Deacon. But Amanda Montgomery, president of the Canadian Music Education Association, argues the climate is now changing for the better, as widely publicized studies credit music with spurring childhood intellectual development. "We've been in a bad cycle the last five or six years," she says, "but now we're on an upswing." The NAC's new chief executive, former head of TVOntario Peter Herndorf, is counting on his star fiddler to cement a national role for his orchestra as that hoped-for resurgence of music education. "Pinchas Zukerman is not only a brilliant musician," says Herndorf, "he's a larger-than-life figure."

But is a longtime New Yorker who needs to spend no more than three months a year in Ottawa fulfilling his NAC obligations the right front man for the job? Zukerman, who officially took up his duties as music director on July 1, says he understands those who wonder if his heart will really be in Canada—and vows to ease those doubts with hard work. "There is a paradox here, and rightly so. America is a very big animal," Zukerman, whose two adult daughters remain in the United States, points out that he has a house in Ottawa and now calls the city home. And his bond to the NAC is not new; it was forged back in 1990, when he led its orchestra on an acclaimed European tour. "I'll go to little towns in Canada, or I go to Vienna or Berlin," he says. "I ain't any different, I can assure you."

Zukerman carries the weight of great expectations lightly. Born in 1948 in Tel Aviv, he was recognized as a prodigy when he was still a very young boy. In 1962, with the support of Isaac Stern and Pablo Casals, no less, he moved to New York to study at the Juilliard School. His teacher

Zukerman seems to convince young students that there is no substitute for feeling good

there was the legendary Ivan Golikman—fondly referred to as “Mr. G” by Zakerman. “He made you practice properly, he made you listen properly, he made you work properly,” Zakerman recalls. But for all Golikman’s stern insistence on “patience and perseverance,” he instilled more than technical technique. “Mr. G and something that in a nutshell makes it so simple,” Zakerman says, noting: “When it sounds good, you feel good, and when you feel good, it sounds good.”

Winchell Zolnerman put his orchestra through its paces lower no doubt about the position for making it stand good that what he seems to convey more vividly to the young students he encounters is that there is no substitute for living good. Zolnerman studies a sensual appreciation for life. He is, after all, famous for his links to beautiful women, one of his two movies in *Twelve Wild*, the bombshell '50s movie star, Anna Orenia, Zolnerman's nearest matchmate to the NAC orchestra's rolling blood cliffs, *Aranda Perpetua*, is no secret. His is not being long with Zolnerman's music magazines as master Jossie Lumbach, a gifted 16-year-old violinist from Edinboro, studied with him during his summer Young Artists Program at the NAC. While the rumour about the saxophone sound of his violin, his recollections of long conversations with Zolnerman are strongly devoid of tips on bowing and fingering. "We did it only talk about music music," Lumbach says. "Just

In fact, for Zakerians, there seems to be no dividing line between 'that kind of stuff' and music. So to play French harpsichord, one must 'go to Paris and take five planes at 7 o'clock in the morning.' He insists, giving his eye to call up the browser at the melody. Maybe both. In music, the French word for 'concert', *concerto*, is used as a synonym to 'soft, smooth playing'. But Zakerian says his only concert to soft, smooth playing was by Zakerian a year during his first trip to Italy back in 1967. 'I went to a coffee place and somebody said, "Have a drink." He remembers with a delicious smile. "That concert is great, but not the way we mean it here. A drink is a very small thing with a little crust and the most extraordinary chunk of the *stuf* inside. Since then, playing *stuf* is a simply different way to me. I'm not alone."

All his talk about food and music and feeling good might be dismissed as so much thick syrup if it were not for what pours out of his viola. At the gala with Performa, a mid-care black-ice event on Oct. 2, the two master fiddlers delivered a stirring rendition of Beethoven's *Concerto for Two Violins*.



Herrnberg: the NAC (left) refurbishing the centre's outdoor space

Critics reach for adjectives like *reluctant* to describe such playing. And when Zukerman put aside his instrument, a 1742 Guarneri del Gesù worth millions, he remained a characteristic presence as conductor. (He looked pleased with the orchestra's octave on the tricky Mendelssohn *Sinfonia*.)

The question is whether Zuckerman's stage mastery can translate into a tangible presence in places where he will not have co-operators will readily set off. This fall, at least, *music* isn't going to be a growing buzz. At Calgany's Mental Health Council where Zuckerman is scheduled to conduct a date on Oct. 28, *music* isn't the ball of the stage isn't the main attraction in nursing school. It's just a place to hold off until the time comes before revealing that *music* has been pushed to play for the great *music*. "I just want them all to keep practicing this hard," he says. At Frederick High School in the New Brunswick capital, Effie Bergman, 15, a talented pianist who also plays the cello, knows exactly what he wants to ask Zuckerman in the planned *music* question-and-answer session on Oct. 29. "I'd ask him what it takes to be great."

**Most kids**, of course, will not be so captivated. At an NAC orchestra rehearsal open to Ottawa high-school musicians recently, the majority of the students slouched out as soon as their teachers let them go. "It kind of [bleat, droned]," explained one 15-year-old boy as he headed for the exit. Zlotofman regards such a response as normal. "There will always be five to seven per cent of the people who like classical music," he shrugs. "But that's a lot of people."

Courtney Jostera, 18, who plays viola, and her friend Yessica Stone, 18, a violinist, among the devoted instrumentalists. They hang around the rehearsal long after they are allowed to leave. "It is just blown away" by Zukerman's playing, Stone adds that music class is always the high point of her day. "When I come out," she gushes, "I just feel better." Like Zukerman's mentor said, when it sounds good, you feel good. And now the NAC is waiting to find out if a court-to-court route, with a concert hall-to-classroom twist, can make that need feel like a need. ■

## CABLE TV

From "is it for me?" to VIP, cable service has come a long way.

Cable television as we know it today has changed immensely from its origins in the mountains of Pennsylvania in the late 1940s. For many years, cable was simply a way to improve reception so people could see network broadcasts. It served as a community's antenna. But it didn't stay that way for long.

Today, more than 60% of Canadian households hold a pay-per-view cable television and have access to a wealth of network and specialty channels. The days of buzzy and poor reception to a blurry memory. The biggest issue for today's cable consumer has nothing to do with reception. Rather, it's his everything to do with their perception of the best value cable service. A number of local cable companies provide bundles of channels you can choose from. Depending on your viewing preferences, the pricing for these packages can range anywhere from economical to pricey.

All that changed when Rogers introduced its VSP Program. Now for the first time ever, consumers can get more than just cable television from their cable company. A lot more in fact. Consumers who become Rogers VSP Members find they have entered a new world filled with specialty channels, and a number of additional services and benefits beyond the TV screen. And to viewers that want not only basic cable, but all the specialty channels along with extra cable outlets for their TV sets in their home, they're finding that they're actually saving money now.

"We're very excited about the Rogers VIP Program because it provides great value to our customers. The feedback we've received indicates that our customers really appreciate it, too. We also think the service and features of the VIP Program position Rogers very strongly against other television alternatives because it offers a lot of unique benefits, which the others don't provide," says Jeffery Lacke, Senior Vice President of Marketing at Rogers Communications.

It's a smart choice to have more choice

Cable companies like Rogers recognize that today's consumers don't just watch TV. They read. They surf the net. They stay in touch. They're looking for the best value they can find in cable television. And if additional value is available over and above their cable TV subscription, so much the better.

That's exactly what Rogers has done. With their VIP Program, they've gone one better than any of the other television alternatives. Rogers VIP Program provides significant savings on all kinds of things that are part of today's active lifestyle.

But let's start with the cable TV offerings first of all. Rogers VIP gives you all the major Canadian and American networks available to your area. As well, you get the local CBC, CTV, Global, ABC, NBC, CBS, and PBS affiliates, as well as the top-rated daytime dramas.

You also get Youth Programming from YTV, all the news all the time from CBC Newsworld, up to the minute weather from The Weather Network, local and neighbourhood access from Rogers Television, and CTV News 1 with Canadian news updates every 15 minutes. Add to that, Sportsnet, the NHL's exclusive partner in cable, sports.

Rogers VIP Program also gives you the best seat in the house for the five most popular specialty channels—Arts & Entertainment, TSN, Discovery Channel, MuchMusic, TBS, and the Family Channel, plus many more.

So many channels,  
so few TVs.

It's true that with so many programs to please everyone in the family, how do you please everyone with just one cable-connected TV set? Rogers addresses that by offering VIP Members a total of four cable outlets — one for each set in a four-TV household — so everyone can watch what they want, when they want. What makes this offer particularly appealing is that the installation for the extra outlets is completely free.

Stay tuned for added benefits

Besides saving you money, the Rogers VIP program provides you with the latest entertainment, communication and information services available today through the VIP Partners discounts.

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**RadioShack Brand Merchandise** – Their motto is "If a've got questions, we've got answers!" When you take your questions to RadioShack, you'll get 20% off regular priced RadioShack brand merchandise.

**The Shopping Channel** – Canadian consumers love The Shopping Channel. With your VIP Membership, you get a special discount on your next order.

**Magazine Subscriptions**—Get the lowest rates available on some of Canada's top-rated publications including *Maclean's*, *Chatelaine*, *Flare*, *Profit*, *Canadian Business*, and *Today's Parent* magazines.

**Theatre Tickets**—Get priority access to major productions such as Disney's *The Lion King* and 15% discount on tickets for *Forever Young*.

## What is the future of cable?

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| ROGERS @ Home<br>20% off                                     | \$8.99  | \$7.19  | \$1.80   |
| CANTEL @tel<br>150 Plus<br>20% off                           | \$5.00  | \$4.25  | \$0.75   |
| ROGERS VIDEO<br>20% off (plus 1 free 7-day rental)           | \$2.00  | \$1.60  | \$0.40   |
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## Books

# A history of secrecy

## The Code Book

By Simon Singh

Hardcover 402 pages \$34.95

Julius Caesar used to encode his messages by shifting every letter three places further down the alphabet. Secret languages, Simon Singh's absorbing new book makes clear, have always played a major role in human affairs. But now, he argues, when private affairs are conducted via satellite signals and e-mail, secrecy matters more than ever. "The art of secret communications," the Cambridge-educated physicist writes, "will provide the locks and keys of the Information Age."

For centuries after Caesar, the keepers of secrets held sway. Abandoning the emperor's numerical shift, code writers began to use randomly jumbled letters. Such ciphers yield billions of possible rearrangements and make trial-and-error decipherment impossible. But in the sixth century, Arab scholars began to develop the code-breaker's essential tool—frequency analysis. In enciphered text, as in all languages, some characters appear more often than others, revealing patterns that lead to their unscrambling.

Since then, a tense battle of code-makers and codebreakers has raged. But Singh says the codebreakers now approach final victory—"absolute privacy." The key developments in quantum cryptography may make it impossible for codebreakers to even capture the message. Singh, a strong proponent of privacy protection, is not entirely thrilled. Total secrecy, he notes, also makes the world safe for criminals. The competing demands of law enforcement and citizens' right to privacy will be one of the crucial issues of the new millennium.

Steve Barbano

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## Books

# From emerald isle to green with envy

A dreamer tussles with the American Dream

**Tie: A Memoir**

By Frank McCourt

Delacorte, 367 pages, \$19.95

After the phenomenal success of *Angela's Ashes*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning 1996 memoir of growing up poor in Ireland, Frank McCourt might have been accused for taking his considerable earnings and slipping gracefully into retirement at his Connecticut country house. The alternative—writing a sequel—could have seemed rather like trying to hit consecutive holes in one. But in *Angela's Ashes* showed, McCourt is nothing if not savvy. So now he continues the story of his life in "Ti," which just a few weeks after publication has shot to the top of many best-seller lists. "Ti" begins where *Angela's Ashes* (which has been announced as a soon-to-be-released movie) left off—with the 19-year-old McCourt arriving in America on the MS Irish Oak. The year is 1949, and New York City is bustling. But young Frank, a self-conscious misfit with a pimply face, sore eyes and bad teeth, is finding it hard to keep ahead of the speeding express of American life.

He wants to, desperately. One thing that distinguishes "Ti" from its predecessor is the prevalence of irony. Back in his Limerick slum, Frank was like everyone else. But in New York, his inferiority is brought home every time he walks down the street. To be sure, there are plenty of beggars and immigrants, but what Frank sees with his red, infected eyes are the well-off. Working in a diner in the Biltmore Hotel, he yearns for the college girls who swoon onto the restaurant with



McCourt: *His books fall short of Angela's Ashes*

their boyfriends. He is ashamed of his Irish accent and his Irish past, and he seems doomed to poverty for he has only a grade-school education.

As everyone who reads this book probably knows beforehand, McCourt ultimately climbs up the ladder of success. But much of "Ti's" charm lies in his account of how he almost didn't make it. McCourt is enough like his father—a shuffler, a hustler who abandoned his family—to be seriously tormented by the timeless pleasures of Manhattan's Irish bars. At other times, he seems ready to disappear down the well of his own loneliness. His physical appearance deepens, and even goes from hunched over at a Park Avenue church on Christmas day. McCourt milks the pathos of all this without mercy, but

mercifully he also leaves his tale with the rough, misbegotten humor of *Angela's Ashes*—not a little of it centered on the perils of drinking too much and throwing up in the wrong places.

McCourt is finally rescued from the gloom when the army drafts him in the early 1950s and restores him in

Germany. The new posting allows him to take furloughs in Ireland, where he is married with Angela. She is a careerwoman in even, but no longer the dominant presence of *Angela's Ashes*. In this book, she seemed a giant because McCourt was only a boy. In "Ti" she seems increasingly small, as McCourt's troubled childhood seems into the past.

Almost predictably, "Ti" fails to come up to the standard set by its predecessor. *Angela's Ashes* had an almost visionary quality, as McCourt—gazing through a child's wondering eyes—transformed the violence and poverty of Limerick into a feast of storytelling and laughter. "Ti" is a grayer, narrower book because it is the story of how one man got ahead, not about how a boy created a world simply by looking at it.

Yet the tale of McCourt's success is both entertaining and instructive. Leaving the army, he calls himself into New York University, which agrees to overlook his lack of a high-school diploma. He becomes a successful teacher and marries the girl of his dreams, a pretty careerwoman, middle-class American who seems to represent all he longs for. But McCourt sabotages that marriage—partly by spending too much time in Irish bars. It is as if he is unmarriageable of his own success, and even of the American Dream itself. Ultimately, as a writer, he finds the gold in the man-bowl's mud. But he cannot forget that treasure was buried in the infant darkness of a very different time and place.

John Berens

# Dad, Joey and me

A writer ponders his forebears' ties to the Rock

## Baltimore's Mission:

### A Memoir

By Wayne Johnson

Knopf Canada, 272 pages, \$32.95

Twice in his haunting new memoir of Newfoundland, Wayne Johnson recalls a strange kind of party trick he and his father used to perform in Goulbs, the village several miles south of St. John's where the family made its home. Wayne's father, Arthur, would fire questions at him about Newfoundland history. And Johnson, who was only 6 or 7 when those exchanges first began in the early 1960s, would snap back witty answers. "The whole business was a setup, since Arthur had written out the questions for Johnson to memorize beforehand. But what made their routine a bit was an element of Joey Smallwood. Loomed by many Newfoundlanders for leading the island into Confederation in 1949, the politician got a rough going-over from father and son. When Arthur asked, "Could you do him justice in a single sentence?" Johnson would pipe back, "Death by hanging."

Johnson, now 41 and living in Toronto, claims he scarcely understood what he was saying in those exchanges. That may be so, but it seems that they helped inspire Arthur's passion deeply in his son. More than 30 years later, Johnson is still wrestling, in *Baltimore's Mission*, with the question of where his own successful, loving, querulous attitudes to the Rock and its people come from. Just how much is he his father's creation—and how much was his father shaped, in turn, by his father's hardships and loves? Such questions are perhaps unanswerable. But Johnson has asked them with passion and integrity—and created a moving portrait of a Newfoundland that no longer exists.

Johnson's book also says a great deal

about the origins of his fiction. His 1994 historical novel, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, made the shortlist for both the Governor General's Award and the Giller Prize. And last summer, it was lauded in the lead review of *The New York Times Book Review*. But in the light of the revelations in *Baltimore's Mission*, the novel's



Johnson unites art and grief through the paternal line

achievement seems all the more remarkable—for one of its most likable protagonists is none other than Joey Smallwood. Clearly, Johnson has done some hard facing up to his inherited demons, if the one drive a such a sympathetic portrait of someone his father hated. No doubt literary scholars will be busy for years tracing vital links between *Baltimore's Mission* and *Colony*, as well as such earlier novels as

*The Divine Flame* (which will appear this fall in a film version scripted by Johnson himself).

For all its misapprehensions about the writer's past, *Baltimore's Mission* excludes a great deal. Johnson, his father, and his paternal grandfather, Charlie, are the stars of a tale in which all his other forebears and relatives, including his mother, are reduced to shadowy supporting roles. This approach has obvious limitations, yet it allows Johnson to put the father-son bond under a microscope, isolating themes that aspect themselves across three generations.

The author writes with great sensitivity about the fact that both he and his father left Newfoundland at critical points in their lives. His father temporarily abandoned the Rock in 1948 to study agricultural technology on the mainland—in defiance of Charlie, who wanted him to be a fisherman. Then, in 1961, Johnson himself left to further his writing career. It seems that around these two departures has coalesced much of the reputation sense of anger and grief that haunts the Johnson line.

In *Baltimore's Mission*—the book is named after a long-lost 17th-century governor's house—Johnson has generalized some wonderful re-creations of events and places he himself never experienced. His picture of Charlie's forge, with the froth-whipped steam whirling outside to be shed, is a small masterpiece. But the book's finest achievement is its evocation of the often troubled relations between fathers and sons. In writing superbly of what so often remains dangerously unspoken, Johnson offers a gift to those who, like himself, are eager to sort out the love from the damage.

John Burt Foster



It took 47 years to understand the meaning of the words, "to death us do part."

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Allan Fotheringham

## In praise of Percy Williams

Any day now all the sports editors in Canada will be getting letters from Canadian Press. I can guarantee it. It's not disingenuous, just brilliant.

The four letter, the millennium approaching, will be asking them to vote on who was the outstanding Canadian athlete this century. No doubt a number of them will vote for someone like Doug Flutie, who, along with not even being a Canadian, plays a game that no other country on the globe has adopted.

James Kearney, dean of the sports academies in Vancouver, has a better idea. His nominee would be someone Canada has forgotten and ignored, one Percy Williams, who weighed 130 lb. and died that the world more than half a century ago.

A 20-year-old kid just out of King Edward High School in Vancouver—68 years before Donovan Bailey won Olympic gold at 100 m in Atlanta—died the same in the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam. Two days later, he won the 200. No one had ever heard of him. He had never run internationally before. Few have heard of him since. Because he was small and fast (a childhood rheumatic fever left him with a damaged heart), he grew embarrassed in the arrogant sports establishment that had cheated him, and became a recluse, dying lonely and alone.

Kearney, who is apparently seated on Bowen Island off Vancouver but still does graceful essays on CBC Radio and sends dispatches to a First Street paper, on Williams' 70th birthday finally found an intermediary who persuaded the old man to come for lunch. After three cocktails loosened him up, he spilled his story that three hours—and he loses.

Percy said his best performance was not the Olympic 100-metre—but what he did after that. In the winter of 1923 he "came out" and ran the indoor circuit. He'd never run indoors before, but he won 22 races in 21 days against all the American favourites, winning several only once. "Everyone remembers Americans, but nobody remembers that."

Donovan Bailey, the poster boy for today's arrogant and selfish jock millionaires, paid \$200,000 to publicize Williams' Pan-American Games and can't even be bothered with showing up for opening day or running in the star event, the 100. Little wonder that Percy Williams, who had to sell insurance to live, turned against the sports world.

At his first high-school meet in Vancouver, he set records for the 100 and 220 yards that lasted for 35 years. His 10-second run for the 100 was on a grass track with the first 50 yards uphill and the last 10 in water. When he went to the nationals in Hamilton in 1927, his coach Bob Granger, a high-school janitor, had to work his way there, walking dishes on a CPR train.

When they got there, the officials found there weren't enough lanes and Percy didn't even run.

When he came back the next year for the Olympic trials, Granger again had to work his way on the CPR train. When

Canada's team sailed for Europe on a liner, there was no room for Granger with all the Olympic "badges" on board, and he worked his way over on a cork boat.

Granger, in a little room on the edge of Amsterdam's red-light district, coached the 150-pounder on his track square a mattress shoved up against a wall. After his double win, the manager of the U.S. Olympic team said, "Williams is the greatest sprinter the world has ever seen." As Kearney says in his dry voice, "Gen. Douglas MacArthur, as the world found out in the 1940s, was given to making dramatic statements."

He established a world record of 10 seconds for the 100-yard dash in Toronto on Aug. 9, 1906, in a name-

up for the first British Empire Games in Hamilton. The record lasted 11 years. (The great Jesse Owens was as fast as Williams, but never surpassed his speed.) In Hamilton on a cold and wet day after a ceremony had long delayed his event after his warm-up, he won but not a track high in the gold race. There was no team doctor. He was finished.

He qualified for the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles and was captain of the track team. Officials gave him a one-way train ticket and \$10 in expense money. He drove down instead, in disgrace. He finished up the track.

He never attended another track meet, nor gave an interview until his remarkable lunch with Kearney. A cancer badger, he was the sole support of his mother, who lived until 90.

One November day in 1962, arthritis leaving him barely able to walk, he took his shotgun, climbed into his bathtub in his lonely Vancouver apartment and blew his head off.

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